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NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Gjyzari, Bulgaria's Lukanov Discuss Cooperation

AU2104144590 Tirana ATA in English 0816 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Tirana, April 21 (ATA)—The premier of Bulgaria, Andrey Lukanov, received the head of the Albanian Government delegation headed by the chairman of the State Planning Commission, Niko Gjyzari. In the course of the meeting, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, they expressed their satisfaction over the development of the hitherto relations between the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania and the PR [People's Republic] of Bulgaria and spoke of the perspectives of their development in the future. Likewise opinions were exchanged for the materialization of cooperation in various fields of common interest as in the economic, industrial, and technical ones, as well as for the further increase of trade exchanges.

Both parties stressed at the meeting that the holding of the second session of the Albanian-Bulgarian Joint Commission will give a fresh impulse to the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Present was the minister of internal trade and public service of Bulgaria, Ekaterina Marinova, as well as the ambassador of Albania in Sofia, Bashkim Rama.

Cooperation Protocol With Bulgaria Signed 20 Apr

AU2104144690 Tirana ATA in English 0820 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Tirana, April 21 (ATA)—The second session of the Joint Commission of Economic, Industrial, and Technical Cooperation between the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania and the PR [People's Republic] of Bulgaria was held in Sofia. The Albanian delegation was headed by the chairman of the State Planning Commission, Niko Gjyzari, whereas the Bulgarian delegation by the minister of home trade and public services, Ekaterina Marinova.

The proceedings of this session, which were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, drew the balance sheet of the work since the first session of this commission and observed that steps forward are taken to materialize the fields of cooperation in increasing trade exchanges and in developing relations between the two countries. Likewise, it was pointed out that possibilities exist to promote the economic, industrial, and technical cooperation of mutual interest and concrete schedules were set for further contacts between the two delegations.

In the end of the proceedings of the session, the protocol on economic, industrial, and technical cooperation was signed between the government of the PSR of Albania and the government of the PR of Bulgaria. The protocol was signed for the Albanian side by Niko Gjyzari, chairman of the State Planning Commission, and for the Bulgarian side by Ekaterina Marinova, minister of home trade and public services.

In the course of his stay in Sofia, Niko Gjyzari was received by the minister of economy and planning, Ivan Tenev.

Trade Protocol With Poland Signed 21 Apr

AU2204143990 Tirana ATA in English 1058 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Tirana, April 22 (ATA)—The protocol on goods exchanges and payments between the government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the government of the Republic of Poland for 1990 was signed on April 21. For the Albanian side the protocol was signed by the vice-minister of foreign trade, Altin Ylli, and for the Polish side by the vice-minister of economic relations with foreign countries, Stanislav Amanovic [name as received].

The signing ceremony was attended also by the charge d'ffaires a.i. [ad interim] of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to the PSR of Albania, Stefan Slomka [name as received].

On the basis of the protocol Albania will export to Poland tobacco, cigarettes, medicinal herbs, conserved vegetables, cognac, handicraft products etc., and will import equipments for the mines, vehicles and spare parts, medicaments, chemical colorings etc.

The vice-minister of economic relations with foreign countries of the Republic of Poland was received on April 21 by the minister of foreign trade, Shane Korbeci.

Leaders' Public Appearances for 14-20 Apr

AU2104164590

[Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian in its broadcasts between 14-20 April reports the following public appearances of Albanian leaders (sourceline of report given in parentheses):

Simon Stefani, Albanian Workers Party Central Committee Politburo member, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of internal affairs attended a ceremony in Tirana on the 45th anniversary of the Border Guards. (1800 GMT 20 Apr)

Mladenov Proposes Document on Preventing Violence

AU2204131190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Speech by Petur Mladenov, president of the republic, included in a special segment "afforded to the president of the republic by the radio program's editors" under the rubric "Minutes to the President" on the Bulgarian Radio "Sunday-150" program—recorded]

[Text] Dear Compatriots,

In these complex and tense days, as the head of state of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and as a husband, father, and grandfather, I feel the need to talk directly to you.

The modern state affords many possibilities for such a talk. Thus television offers a great possibility to various personalities and politicians to express themselves. Television is a great means to achieve popularity and conduct political struggle. I seek neither. Addressing you, I am not so much interested in being seen by you, but rather in being heard by you, because I want to share my thoughts and feelings and learn what you are thinking and feeling. I believe that radio is the best means to help us express our adherence to the common Bulgarian cause.

On Tuesday, 17 April, I went to pay my respects to the memory of the victims of the former Lovech Camp. The mass media reported this, of course, in various ways. A group of citizens were already gathered at the site of the former camp. Many of them were representatives of the opposition. They greeted me with their victory sign. Cold shivers went down my spine when I saw this militant sign at that place of death. What victory? An election victory, or perhaps some other kind of victory? I was afraid to guess. I approached those people and began to talk to them. We talked about the fact that each of us carries his personal sorrow within his soul. We shared the thought that all of us are concerned about our future. A young and beautiful woman said that she is the mother of four children and that she cannot reconcile herself to the thought that her children might become victims of violence. An elder person asked me to swear that I will do everything within my power so that what happened will never be repeated. At that moment, I felt that all of us who were there were brought closer together by the simple words, full of humanitarian sense, inscribed on the memorial board: "Never again oppression! Never again lawlessness!"

Afterward I thought long about what I could do about the people with whom I talked, and for all Bulgarian citizens, so that they would be calm, safe, and happy. I am deeply convinced that calm and safety are the things we need most at the moment. We need calm and safety in order to react correctly, adopt the most correct decisions, work efficiently, and become better friends, more tender parents, and more cordial neighbors and colleagues.

Our people experienced a difficult and unenviable fate. Bulgaria experienced slavery, wars, insurrections, and revolutions. Much wrong was done and much blood was shed in our land. There are thousands of lost graves, or graves without a cross on them. However, fratricide, the division into "we" and "they," and the permanent call for revenge and punishment are the heaviest result. Hardly anyone could have any doubts as to what all this means for the fate of the nation.

On 10 November 1989, our people made an important step. With the efforts of all honest citizens it succeeded to peacefully eliminate a despotic system. We obtained an historical chance, which must not be wasted. It is necessary once and for all the close the page of discord, quarrels, and fratricide, and open a new page of national reconciliation and consensus.

Let us once again think about our children and Bulgaria's future. Let us remember the old and wise saying: Those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

Thinking about all this, I conceived the idea of proposing to the political parties in Bulgaria, both governing and opposition, to sign now, before the elections, a document, in which they will undertake the obligation to refrain from using violence while governing, violating the laws or the citizens' rights, or seeking revenge and oppression. If such a document is signed, we could send it to the general secretary of the United Nations with the request to disseminate it among the governments of all states and preserved as an official UN document.

I would be grateful to hear your opinion on this matter. I expect your reply. If you think like me, I shall propose to the leaders of the political parties to sign such a document.

Mladenov Addresses International Earth Day

AU2004202490 Sofia BTA in English 1859 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—An address of President Petur Mladenov to the Bulgarian people on the occasion of the International Day of the Earth has been made public here.

Assurance is expressed in the address that all Bulgarians aspire for clean nature, that all Bulgarians hold dear their children's lives and health and the future of their lovely motherland.

Bulgaria is part of the world. She shares the interests and the yearnings of the international public. Her development along the road of progress also bears the traces of grave mistakes and improvident decisions from the point of view of ecology. A number of regions in the country are threatened by serious environmental pollution, President Mladenov underlines in the address.

As president of this country, I am well aware of my responsibility and I will do my best to save the country from the disasters, the harmful effects of which are very well known. All should lend a hand in the nation-wide efforts for the protection of environment the citizens, the industry, the education system, the health care establishments, the state and the public organizations. We should cultivate a new ecological consciousness and work responsibly and with a sense of duty to the present and the future generations, Mr. Mladenov says.

I entirely support the noble initiative of the international committee to mark the Day of the Earth, I congratulate all citizens who embraced this idea and wish every success to this noble cause, it is said in the address.

General Staff Proposes Cut in Military Service

AU2004185190 Sofia BTA in English 1749 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—A spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence read on the Bulgarian Television the announcement of Army General Dobri Dzhurov, minister of national defence, about the proposal of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army to reduce the term of doing service in the Army from 24 to 18 months.

The proposal will be presented to President Petur Mladenov and when it is legalized the public will be informed accordingly.

Foreign Attaches Observe Arms Reduction Measures

AU2004172690 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 19 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Dispatch by Major Vladi Vladkov and Senior Lieutenant Krasimir Uzunov: "Farewell to Arms in the Bulgarian Version"]

[Excerpts] Veliko Turnovo, 18 April (by telephone from our special correspondents)—The party which boarded the aircraft and departed from Sofia Airport this morning was an unusual and varied one. There was an abundance of military uniforms and a babble of different languages, but all were united by the aim of their trip and the route of the flight.

At the initiative of the Ministry of National Defense, military attaches accredited in Bulgaria were to see with their own eyes that Bulgaria is fulfilling the commitments which it unilaterally assumed at the beginning of the year to make certain cuts in its arms and combat hardware. The group was led by Colonel General Boris Todorov, deputy minister of national defense.

In Karlovo the military attaches saw that the declared 200 tanks were assembled at the base for storing weapons and combat equipment due for reprocessing and destruction, which had been set up at the base of the former tank brigade. The tanks had not only been collected, but some of them had already been converted into tank tractors [tankov vlekach]. Many of the military attaches were amazed that modern T-62 tanks, three-quarters of which were in a fully combat-ready condition, were being stripped down. The ammunition, measuring instruments, machine guns, and batteries have already been removed. [passage omitted]

At the air base near Uzundzhovo 15 MiG-21 fighters silently waited their fate. Why only 15? the informed reader might ask, since it was announced that 20 machines would be taken out of service. It turned out that two planes, with their weapons removed and no longer fit for combat, have been handed over to the aviation museum, and a further three will be mounted on pedestals at military air bases. [passage omitted]

At the "Khan Krum" Machine Repair Plant in Turgovishte the plant director Engineer Ivan Ivanov briefed the military attaches on the tasks allocated to the enterprise in accordance with assumed commitments to destroy a certain quantity of weapons. At the moment, the plant is engaged in stripping down and destroying T-34 tanks that had formed part of the arms of the Bulgarian People's Army. All the tanks have an almost complete service life, following major overhaul. In line with its capacities, the plant has the task of destroying 503 tanks of this type by the end of the year. [passage omitted]

The T-34's which are being destroyed here have been removed from the Army's strength and until now have been held in reserve. Before being mothballed, they underwent a complete overhaul and at the moment are fully combat-ready. [passage omitted]

The end of the tour brought the military attaches to Veliko Turnovo, where they were shown how artillery hardware was being dismantled and prepared for destruction. [passage omitted]

One's unaccustomed eyes are fatigued by the mass of lifeless military hardware, but this apocalypse is not created in order to frighten anyone. It does not form the basis for new weapons of the future. Perhaps for the first time, the destruction of one group of weapons does not arouse fear of new weapons, but creates security. Bulgaria's wise and calm policy of peace and the fulfillment of the unilaterally assumed commitments create new chances for the process of disarmament and strengthening confidence in the Balkans, and this has already received its confirmation in reality.

Lukanov Meets Austrian Parliamentary Delegation

AU2004172790 Sofia BTA in English 1659 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—Mr. Andrey Lukanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, assessed the visit of the Austrian parliamentary delegation headed by Ms. Marga Hubinek, second president of the National Council of Austria, as support for the processes in Bulgaria and the accelerated transition to parliamentary democracy, and a desire to promote the two countries' relations which are deeply rooted, diversified, mature and based on mutual confidence. He stated that the National Assembly and the government will invite a group of Austrian parliamentarians to the forthcoming elections.

At the meeting the delegation had today with Mr. Lukanov, Ms. Marga Hubinek said she would like to be familiarized with the economic programme of the Bulgarian Government. She expressed the concern of the business circles in Austria over the spacing out of some Bulgarian payments.

Mr. Andrey Lukanov presented some basic ideas and objects of the economic reform, underlining its social orientation. Austria's experience in social politics is of particular interest, because on the whole maybe this is the experience that would fit best our realities, he said.

Speaking about the spacing out of the payments of Bulgaria's foreign debt, the leader of the government said that this decision had no other alternative, because no possibility for refinancing was offered. But he underlined that this step should be considered as a pause for Bulgaria and her Western partners, during which the paths of future cooperation can be discussed jointly.

The Austrian parliamentarians expressed assurance that the traditional good contacts will be advanced, especially in the conditions of democratization in the country.

Today the Austrian parliamentarian delegation had a meeting with Mr. Viktor Vulkov, chairman of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS).

He informed the guests about the programme of the BZNS aimed at the development of agriculture. Assistance was sought for the delivery of small farming equipment by Western partners.

The Austrian parliamentarians familiarized the leader of the BZNS with the ecosocial market economy aimed at the conservation of the land in Austria.

Lukanov, Dzhurov Defend Ex-Premier Atanasov

AU2004170890 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 19 Apr 90 p 4

[18 April letter from Andrey Lukanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Dobri Dzhurov to the Bulgarian Socialist Party Central Commission on Party Ethics]

[Text] To the Central Commission on Party Ethics:

Comrades, your decision published in DUMA, Issue No. 11 of 14 April 1990, proposes that the question of Georgi Atanasov's expulsion from the ranks of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], on the grounds that his membership is unjustified considering that he lacks the qualities of a party member, should be discussed by the primary party organization of which he is a member.

All of us, all our actions and behavior, shall be correctly and objectively judged by history and by the people. Without claiming to provide a comprehensive evaluation of Georgi Atanasov's activities in the party and state organs, we would like to brief you on certain facts which are not widely known by the public. They concern Georgi Atanasov's role during the decisive days of 9 and 10 November 1989 and in the events which preceded them. We feel obliged to point out that, throughout the last months preceding 10 November 1989, Georgi Atanasov manifested an unmistakable and principled stand on the situation within the party and country, and regarding the requirement for a profound change in the party's central leadership and in its policy. On 9 November 1989, he was one of those who accepted the risk and categorically urged Todor Zhivkov to resign. At the Politburo meeting Georgi Atanasov did not hesitate to reject Todor Zhivkov's effort to provoke a split within the party by proposing Atanasov as candidate for general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee.

Atanasov also played a very important role at the BCP Central Committee Plenum session on 10 November 1989 which he chaired. As chairman of the session, Georgi Atanasov firmly opposed Todor Zhivkov's attempt to gain time by postponing the solution of the problem. It is not difficult to guess the possible implications of such an experiment, which was carefully planned in advance by some of Todor Zhivkov's closest associates, had it been successful.

Today, being increasingly aware of the historical role played by the 10 November 1989 events in our country for Bulgaria's development along the path of democracy, we have no moral justification to underestimate, and even less to forget such things.

We assume that the decision of the Central Commission on Party Ethics was determined, among other things, by the fact that the Commission was not informed of the aforementioned facts and circumstances. As members of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, we appeal to you, urging you to review your decision by taking the aforementioned facts and circumstances into consideration.

Sofia, 18 April 1990.

With comradely greetings.

Signed: Andrey Lukanov, Dobri Dzhurov.

Kurdish Students Protest at Turkish Embassy

AU2004202590 Sofia BTA in English 1914 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—The Kurdish Students' Society in Bulgaria today organized a demonstration as a token of protest against the acts of violence and oppression regarding their compatriots in Turkey. The demonstrators gathered in front of the Turkish Embassy and stood in one-minute silence in memory of the 12 fighters of the Kurdish resistance killed by the Turkish authorities in March this year.

The young demonstrators chanted before the embassy "Down with feudalism," "No to dictators," condemning the policy of genocide pursued by the Turkish regime in the Kurd-inhabited areas.

Rally Calls for 'Independent Macedonia'

AU2204191090 Sofia BTA in English 1840 GMT 22 Apr 90

["Anti-Bulgarian Mood Does Not Remain Covert"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sandanski, April 22 (BTA)—A rally was held today in the region of Rozhen Monastery near the tomb of Yane Sandanski, the great Bulgarian revolutionary, on the day of the 75th anniversary of his death. It was organized by the United Macedonian Organization "Ilinden". There was no permission from the municipal authorities of the town of Sandanski to hold the rally, but in spite of that it was still held as the motives for the refusal turned out to be unlawful.

The anniversary was marked yesterday by another meeting at which Academician Ilcho Dimitrov held a speech.

The initiators presented before the people present at the rally among whom there were Yugoslavian citizens, the aims and tasks of their organization. Behind the screen of the slogans for peace, freedom and democracy, for fraternity between the Balkan peoples and a common Balkan and European home, the participants did not hide their fervent adherence to Macedonianism, which was clearly seen by the statements of the speakers. They assessed the position of the present Bulgarian Government, of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces], the Union of the Macedonian Cultural and Educational Societies in Bulgaria concerning the Macedonian issue as a manifestation of great Bulgarian chauvinism.

A political declaration of the organization "Ilinden" to the United Nations, the National Assembly of Bulgaria, the SDS, National TV, the European Parliament, the International Court in Hague, was voiced, which appealed for an autonomous Macedonia.

Development in Prisoners Strikes Reported

AU2204181990 Sofia BTA in English 1741 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 22 (BTA)—The conflict in the places for detention as prisons are officially called here acquired today new dimensions.

After the protests of some of the prisoners in the Plovdiv prison have continued for almost a week the guarding personnel has circulated a declaration which states that in view of the existing situation they can no longer perform their duties. It is indicated that "there are no guarantees for their life in the fulfillment of their duties" and that "the ungrounded requests by the prisoners are constantly increasing." The personnel insists that by April they will perform their duties as officers of the legal police after which they will hand their common resignation, if no measures are undertaken to normalize the situation.

In their declaration the officers address this country's president and the minister of justice with the following demands for urgent measures: change of the personnel, provision of rest and undertaking of fatigue duty by officers from the Internal Forces.

According to information received in the BTA, the officers in the prisons in Pazardzhik, Vratsa and Burgas have joined the demands of their colleagues from Plovdiv.

As the chief of the Chief Department of Prisons at the Ministry of Justice Zdravko Traykov told a BTA reporter the situation in Sofia's prisons has begun to normalize. About ten people have remained on top of the roofs out of the 100 prisoners on strike at the beginning of the week. The rest had the right to visit as the other prisoners and after a decision of the prison administration the visit duration was made longer.

The situation in the Varna prison has normalized today. The first 3 prisoners got off the roof at 3 a.m. while a group of 42 people got off at 2 p.m. and the last 9 people at 7 p.m.

The special forces of the Ministry of the Interior have been assisting the prison officers since last night.

United Democratic Center Begins Conference

AU2104153690 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] A little more than an hour ago, the United Democratic Center [Obedineniyat demokraticheski tsentur] began its constituent national conference in Sofia. This sociopolitical movement is aimed at uniting knowledgeable, capable, active, thinking, and creatively oriented people. Accordingly, the movement's motto is: Creativity and Competence.

The participants are discussing the drafts of the movement's program declaration and statute. Stoyan Ganev, co-chairman of the movement, opened the conference and stated that the United Democratic Center was registered yesterday at the Sofia City Court, and has obtained the status which enables it to be a sociopolitical force enjoying equal rights, with its own candidates in the forthcoming elections.

The United Democratic Center is an interparty movement of specialists with an ideological orientation. It is a movement akin to the Union of Democratic Forces [UDF], but the issue of UDF membership is a question which the conference participants have to discuss.

Stoyan Ganev also read a message to the conference from Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, chairman of the UDF Coordinating Council. Vera Mutafchieva also delivered a greetings message to the participants.

United Democratic Center Ends First Conference

AU2104153790 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The constituent conference of the United Democratic Center ended about half an hour ago in the House of the Cinema in Sofia. The conference adopted in principle the movement's program declaration and statute, which tomorrow will be revised in accordance with the amendments made at today's meeting.

The conference participants stated that the United Democratic Center is a sociopolitical movement and is a member of the Union of Democratic Forces.

Opposition Declaration on Independent Radio, TV

AU2104200390 Sofia BTA in English 1814 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 21 (BTA)—In relation with the appeal made last night on national TV about an inadmissible interference of the political forces in the work of its team, a declaration of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] was voiced tonight in the central TV emission, in support of this appeal.

It recalls that one of the preliminary conditions of the SDS delegation about the roundtable was an access to the mass media, TV and radio which is regulated in time. The SDS addressed a reproach at the TV for bias to popularize the programmes and platforms of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party.

The declaration reads that the SDS delegation at the roundtable is ready to sign immediately an agreement for a temporary statute of the Bulgarian TV and Radio, which will guarantee their turning into real all-nation above-party institutions, which will submit their activities to the interests of the people and the lofty aims and priorities of society, and not to the aims and interests of a single party only.

The SDS also expresses a firm protest against the participation of Minister of National Defence General Dobri Dzhurov and Minister of the Interior Atanas Semerdzhiev in the election campaign of the BSP.

BSP Road to Europe Movement Holds Conference

AU2104192790 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Today the Bulgarian Socialist Party's Road to Europe Movement held a national conference in the People's Palace of Culture in Sofia.

The political report, which was read by Prof. Dr. Petur-Emil Mitev, the movement's chairman, posed three major questions to which the 342 delegates from the movement's 70 clubs throughout the country have to give clear and specific answers, namely, what is the state of the country and the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], how should the movement look in the long term, and how should it look today, before the forthcoming elections?

According to the participants in the conference, the renewal of the BSP is proceeding slowly, and the movement's supporters should not permit the proposal as candidates of workers on the party's payroll, of—and I quote—our former good old friends disguised in new makeup. It is necessary to put forward the candidacies of young, honorable, and competent people, and those party organizations which include in their memberships discredited individuals, well known to the whole of the people, should rid themselves of this burden.

The most important issue, upon which the debates were exceptionally stormy and contentious, was the proposal made by the Alternative Socialist Association [ASO] faction of the BSP that it should take part in the elections with its own alternative candidates. An answer must also be given to the question whether the left-wing groups should unite within the BSP as a left bloc. On these issues the delegates rallied around the viewpoint of the Coordinating Council of the Bulgarian Road to Europe Movement not to run in the electons with a separate list of alternative candidates, but to allow the leaderships of the movement's local organizations to decide whether to support the candidates put forward by the BSP or the ASO's alternative list of candidates. Later a news conference was given on this issue in the People's Palace of Culture.

BSP Road to Europe Platform Calls for Congress

AU2104201290 Sofia BTA in English 1907 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 21 (BTA)—At the first national conference of the Platform Road to Europe in the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], held today in this capital city, a concern was expressed for the slow rates at which the BSP is making its renewal. In relation with that it was firmly stated that this platform stands for a single radical wing in the party and will back all concrete initiatives in this respect. It will insist for the convening of a first regular congress of the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

A proposal was made to change the style of the BSP election campaign. The explicit need was stressed to stop all attempts to raise the nominations of BSP members who have discredited themselves for M.P.'s.

In the elections this platform will be together with the BSP.

BSP Alternative Socialists To Run in Elections

AU2104200690 Sofia BTA in English 1910 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 21 (BTA)—The Council of the Representatives of the Alternative Socialist Association (ASO), a faction in the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party], discussed that faction's participation in the elections. The adopted resolution reads that ASO will come with its own list and the local clubs will retain their freedom of action. The ASO is trying to build a left political centre by juxtaposing conservatism and in interrelation with the reformers' forces in the BSP.

Independent Student Association Marks Lenin Day

AU2204181890 Sofia BTA in English 1715 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 22 (BTA)—A wall of cardboard boxes was raised this afternoon at the square in front of Lenin's monument in this capital city. This, as well as the rally which was held here were in relation with the anniversary of Lenin's birth. The initiator was the Federation of the Independent Students' Associations. The cardboard wall hid the monument from the glance of the participants and the passers-by, while the speakers who stood before it expressed their opinion about the personality and part of the theoretical legacy of Lenin.

Only excerpts which justify armed actions against the so called exploitation class or give concrete recommendations for detention of people, professing other ideology were chosen. The conclusion was that the abuses do not belong only to the social practice in the present socialist states, that the errors are to a great extent justified by theory, too. The example given was that many of the Communist Parties have already rejected the Lenin model of organization and activity. This, according to the organizers meant that it is high time to give up the ideas of monuments and plaques in the memory of Lenin himself.

A representative of the Federation of the Students Associations stressed that it is not right to determine the anti-Soviet moods as Russofob [as received] ones. In order to back his statement he appealed to the people to lay flowers in front of the doctors' monument as a sign of respect for the victims of the Russian people.

Green Party National Conference Reported

AU2204193690 Sofia BTA in English 1834 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 22 (BTA)—The Green Party which has 10, 000 members and, according to sociological inquiries is the most popular party in Sofia, held its first national conference.

It adopted a pre-election platform, the major principle of which is to increase the quality of life of each individual. As Aleksandur Karakachanov, the party's president said at the conference opening, in the elections the party will strive for the votes of the people who are still hesitating.

Young Pioneer Organization Votes To Disband

AU2104180090 Sofia BTA in English 1740 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Smolyan, April 21 (BTA)—At a meeting in the town of Smolyan, 600 representatives of the Bulgarian Pioneer Organization "Septemvriyche" voted today for that organization's dismissal. Tomorrow the children will decide themselves whether there will be a union, an organization or a federation.

Italy Promises Continued Credits at Rome Talks

AU2004185390 Sofia BTA in English 1752 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Rome, April 20 (BTA)—A Bulgarian delegation headed by Mr. Georgi Khadzhikov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, paid a visit to Italy at the invitation of Mr. Gianni de Michelis, minister of foreign affairs.

The delegation had meetings with high-ranking officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of the Treasury, with the managers of leading banks, credit institutes and industrial groups. At the talks the representatives of the Italian Government and business circles confirmed their readiness to continue to give Bulgaria financial assistance by means of governmental, bank and company credits, despite the decision of the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank to defer the payment of credits. According to the two sides, in this way the necessary conditions will be created for the promotion of trade, investments and industrial cooperation and the bilateral economic relations as a whole.

At the meetings the hosts also confirmed their support for Bulgaria's initiatives in the field of multilateral economic and financial cooperation, her joining GATT, the International Monetary Fund, the International Reconstruction and Development Bank, etc.

Trade Cooperation Talks With Albania End

AU2004201890 Sofia BTA in English 1920 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—Bulgaro-Albanian economic cooperation is expected to be activated. The positive results that have been achieved of late and the agreements reached at the second session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation which ended today in Sofia with the signature of a protocol give grounds for this statement.

At the session it was pointed out that after the establishment of the joint committee in December 1988 the economic relations between the two countries developed more actively, visits of delegations and working groups were exchanged and business contacts were established between the two countries' economic organizations in the mining and the chemical industry, in the food industry, electronics and agriculture.

At the second session the new objectives of Bulgaro-Albanian cooperation in the 1990-1991 period were specified and the main lines of the development of their economic relations in the copper-producing and the food industry, agriculture, tourism, electric power generation and other industrial sectors until 1995 were mapped out. It was also pointed out that the trade between the two countries develops dynamically and last year it increased by 62 per cent compared with 1988; this year an increase of about 75 per cent is planned compared with the figures laid down in the long-term agreement.

Agreement With EC on Metallurgy Product Quotas

AU2004202090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1902 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Brussels, April 20 (BTA)—An agreement between the EC and Bulgaria which will regulate the export of Bulgarian metallurgical products to the EC in 1990 was endorsed in the capital of Belgium today.

At the proposal of the Commission of the EC it was decided that last year's export quotas of Bulgaria for these products will be increased by 12 per cent.

The increase of 12 per cent is the average for the European Community. It is specified in the agreement which EC member-countries can import bigger quantities of metallurgical products from Bulgaria (the FRG and Portugal being among them), which will import the same quantities as under last year's quotas and which will import smaller quantities than last year's ones. Some countries, Denmark for example, will not import such products from Bulgaria at all.

The EC Committee of Ministers is expected to study and approve the agreement by the end of next month, after which it is to be signed. The export of Bulgarian metallurgical products to the EC countries realized since the beginning of the year will be included in the quotas specified in the document.

Debt Talks Held With International Bank Committee

AU2104201790 Sofia BTA in English 1856 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Frankfurt, April 21 (BTA corr.)—The first session of the International Banking Consultative Committee, headed by Deutsche Bank, with the Bulgarian delegation ended here late last night. The beginning is laid of negotiations in relation with the Bulgarian National Bank's difficulties to pay the bank foreign debt in convertible currency in 1990 and 1991.

The representative of the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank Ognyan Enchev told a BTA correspondent that after Deutsche Bank had recently agreed to become the committee coordinator, it already includes 11 international bank institutions. A proposal was made at the first session that the banks-creditors will defer the due sums in the period March 29-June 30 for a three-month period. The beginning of this period coincides with the date on which the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank declared that it stops temporarily payments of some of its debts to foreign banks. The initiatives mapped for this period were backed.

A new session is forthcoming of the International Banking Consultative Committee.

Roundtable Agreement on Radio, TV To Be Signed

AU2104163090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] An agreement in principle has been reached at the national roundtable on the election campaign on radio and television. The agreement will be officially signed on Monday [23 April]. Information on the contents of the agreement will be given in later news programs.

Air Time Schedule for Campaign Broadcasts

AU2104184290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The National Roundtable reached, at a working level, an agreement in principle concerning election campaigning on radio and television. It temporarily regulates the time, duration, and relative frequency of air time on Bulgarian Television and radio for the major participants in the elections—the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, and the Union of Democratic Forces. Apart from these times, there will be no radio or television broadcasts of a party-propaganda nature during campaigning. The agreement also regulates the sequence in which the individual election features will be broadcast.

Transmissions reflecting the election campaign will be sent out in 30-minute blocks at 1530 [1230 GMT] on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the KHORIZONT Program, and at the same time on Mondays and Saturdays on the KHRISTO BOTEV Program. Discussion programs will be transmitted from 0900 to 1100 [0600 to 0800 GMT] every Friday on the KHRISTO BOTEV Program, and from 1600 to 1800 [1300 to 1500 GMT] every Wednesday on the KHORIZONT Program.

Dispute Over Youth Newspaper Settled

AU2104171690 Sofia BTA in English 1559 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 21 (BTA)—The dispute between the presidency of the Bulgarian Democratic Youth (BDY) and part of the editorial board of NARODNA MLADEZH daily, former daily of that organization, about the paper's contents was solved after the signing an agreement for the founding of two youth editions. An all-youth daily, which expresses the opinion of the whole Bulgarian youth, and a daily of the BDY are to be published. The former owner NARODNA MLADEZH will grant some of its resources and base to the new edition.

Both editions are giving up the old name NARODNA MLADEZH.

Scientists Approve Reforms at Union Congress

AU2104200890 Sofia BTA in English 1903 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 21 (BTA)—As from today the Union of Scientific Workers in Bulgaria is called the Union of Scholars. The new name was voted at the Fifth Extraordinary Congress of this organization which continues since yesterday. It was also decided that the union will continue its activity on the federal principle. The most important tasks of the federation which is a politically independent and above-institutional organization are its participation in the formation of the scientific policy of this country, to be an independent or alternative expert, reviewer or consultant to various programmes and projects for the development of science, education and the country's socio-economic future, applied by government and state.

New Common Grave Found Near Blagoevgrad

AU2004185490 Sofia BTA in English 1757 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 20 (BTA)—Six skeletons have been excavated up till now from the common grave found near the town of Blagoevgrad (southwestern Bulgaria). Its excavation began yesterday by SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] members. Besides bones some personal objects were also found: a watch and a pen.

The grave excavation continues and is guarded round the clock.

Problem of Radioactive Waste Disposal Examined

AU1904134990 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 17 Apr 90 p 2

[Article by Engineer Kalin Vikov: "The Earth's Future Lies in Our Hands"]

[Text] The radioactive waste from nuclear power plants contains more than 200 radioisotopes at various stages of activity and life spans. It is impossible to avoid producing them during the production of nuclear energy, because of the physical nature of the process. What, then, is the "human" price of nuclear energy, and what is the safety criterion used to establish the threshold for unavoidable "irreversible losses"? The burial of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants is considered to be safe when the social risk is less than 1,000 deaths during the first 10,000 years. Research shows that this social risk is many times less than the risk arising when a natural accumulation of radioactive ore is uncovered.

In order to isolate the radioactive waste from the environment, it is placed in containers, vitrified, sealed with bitumen, and encased in concrete to form concrete blocks. With rare exceptions, these barriers remain secure for 300-500 years. In order to ensure longer isolation, a medium, such as clay, salt-containing rocks, and granites, is used at the burial sites.

Scientific research on burying radioactive waste underground in suitable geological environments began 25 years ago. The period allowed for research, design, and construction of such a depository is from 10 to 30 years. For example, in the FRG the research on the problem began in 1962, and construction of the storage depository in the old Konrad iron-ore mine began in 1979. The depository is scheduled to come into operation in 1991, and is designed to ensure safe burial for 360,000 years.

I am far from thinking that we can allocate so much money to making our own waste safe, but the problem is a very important one, and it must be solved in a timely way in collaboration with other countries.

In Bulgaria research on the burial of radioactive waste began in 1979, when a commission was set up under the Committee for Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. From 1984 to 1985 a collective from the Committee on the Energy Industry developed a comprehensive program for completely resolving the issues connected with the treatment, storage, and burial of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants with low and medium levels of radioactivity. At the moment various collectives from the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences are working on the problems of encasing the waste in bitumen and cement, processing the waste, and other problems. "Energoproekt" is working on a design project for a temporary depository for radioactive waste at nuclear power station sites. However, the main problem, namely where the radioactive waste will finally be buried, is still not solved. Furthermore, the time is not far off when the nuclear reactors of the Kozloduy Plant will begin one after the other to go into "retirement," and the amount of waste accumulated until now will be doubled.

The question of constructing a national storage depository was raised very strongly two years ago. The large amounts of radioactive waste accumulated at the nuclear power plant made it necessary to construct an additional temporary depository. This state of affairs led to the issue of Council of Ministers Order No. 5 on 19 April 1988, which states that a national depository must be constructed before 1995. Two years have passed since then, and a total of 11 years since the research started, yet there are no concrete results!

Bulgaria does not possess a sufficiently well developed concept for the safe elimination of the radioactive waste from nuclear power plants, nor does the necessary legislation exist for this.

Chief Mufti Greets Muslims on Ramadan

AU2204193790 Sofia BTA in English 1833 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 22 (BTA)—Nedyu Gendzev, the Chief Mufti of Muslims in Bulgaria congratulated, from the screen of national TV tonight, on behalf of the Supreme Clerical Council, Bulgarian Muslims and wished them health and happy celebration of the forthcoming holiday Ramadan Bairam on April 26.

New Bulgarian-British Society Founded

AU2204175890 Sofia BTA in English 1613 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 22 (BTA)—Representatives of the cultural public in Sofia founded today a Society for Bulgaro-British Relations as a successor and follower of the best traditions of the former society which beared the same name and existed up till 1941. The new society is an independent voluntary association of citizens of non-profitable aim. Its task is to cooperate in the versatile acquaintance and understanding between the Bulgarian and British peoples.

Academician Blagovest Sendov was elected honorary co-chairman from the Bulgarian side and Prof. Luka Krustev was elected chairman.

Annual Suicide Rate Statistics Provided

AU2004144290 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Katya Karagyaurova report: "Annual Rate of 1500 Suicides"]

[Text] The available data does not show an increase in the crime rate related to violence against persons. The causes of death also remains unchanged throughout the last months. Physical assaults for political reasons do not exist in our country. The case of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party municipal leader has been unmasked as a fraud. This is what Professor Stoycho Radanov, head of the Legal Medicine Faculty of the Medical Academy, recently reported.

Road accidents are among the most frequent "killers" when considering causes of death. Hanging is the second most frequent followed by poisoning.

The annual rate of suicides in the country is 1,500 and the same number of attempted suicides are reported. The Legal Medicine Faculty limits itself to establishing the cause of death. Nevertheless, can we ask what kind of people are prone to commit suicide?

Professor Radanaov answers: "Social circumstances should be carefully examined, in particular. Actually, there is indiference toward the people who commit, or attempt to commit suicide. The majority of them are elderly people. Among the younger people who have killed themselves, those suffering from mental diseases and who are incapable of adjusting to the existant living conditions are in the majority.

Sacher on Pope's Visit, Interior Ministry 'Crisis'

LD2004203190 Prague CTK in English 1924 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 20 (CTK)—Security of Pope John Paul II will be ensured by 11,000 persons during his forthcoming visit to Czechoslovakia, Richard Sacher, Czechoslovak minister of the interior, said at a press conference here today.

The security staff will start working at 1900 GMT tonight, the minister said, stressing that this will be an unprecedented action for Czechoslovak security bodies.

In connection with the pope's visit, anonymous threats have occurred. Security forces are checking the areas to be visited by the pope and analyzing all his stay on Czechoslovak territory. In protecting the pope, experiences of Vatican, Austrian, Italian and British police will be used.

Referring to why the Czechoslovak interior minister's deputies were recalled today, Richard Sacher said that no country can allow another leading centre to be formed in its Ministry of the Interior by persons not respecting orders but dealing with politics.

Asked if the crisis in the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry headquarters has not been caused to provoke—with the pre-election campaign starting—moods against the Christian and Democratic Union (Richard Sacher is member of the Czechoslovak People's Party which belongs to the Union), the minister stated that now, the Civic Forum is no longer the only democratic platform in Czechoslovakia and added that when discussing with Civic Forum representatives he learned for the first time about the demand for his resignation.

Havel 21 Apr Speech Welcoming Pope

LD2104102590 Prague Television Service in Czech 0913 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Speech by President Vaclav Havel welcoming Pope John Paul II at Prague Airport—live]

[Text] Your holiness, dear fellow citizens, I do not know if I know what a miracle is. Despite this, I dare say that at this moment I am a participant in a miracle. A man who six months ago was being arrested as an enemy of his state is today welcoming, as its president, the first pope in the history of the Catholic Church to land on the soil where this state is situated.

I do not know if I know what a miracle is. Despite this, I dare say that this afternoon I will take part in a miracle. At the very place where five months ago, when we experienced the joy in the sanctification of Agnes of Bohemia, we were deciding about our country's future, the head of the Catholic Church will be serving holy mass. And we probably will thank our saint for her intercession with the one who has in his hands the secret course of all things.

I do not know if I know what a miracle is. Despite this, I dare say that at this moment I am a participant in a miracle. A missionary of love is arriving in a country devastated by an ideology of hatred. A living symbol of education has arrived in a country devastated by the rule of ignorance. A missionary of peace, dialogue, mutual tolerance, respect, and kind understanding, a messenger of fraternal unity has arrived in a country which was up until recently destroyed by the idea of world confrontation and division.

For many decades, the spirit was being driven out of our country. I have the honor to witness the moment when its soil is being kissed by the apostle of spirit. Your holiness, I welcome you to Czechoslovakia. [applause]

Havel Welcomes Pope to Prague

LD2104211790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1830 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Speech by President Vaclav Havel at new Rudolf Gallery in Prague Castle at welcoming ceremony for Pope John Paul II—live]

[Text] Your Holiness, in one of your poems you ask: Can history flow against the stream of consciousness? It is clear what you meant by this call, that history cannot flow permanently against the stream of consciousness. You were right, and together with you all those who did not lose hope were also right. In our country, as in the countries of many of our neighbors and brothers, history flowed against the stream of consciousness for a long time, but it could not flow against it forever. That is why I have the great honor today of being able to welcome you in this venerable seat of the Bohemian kings, and subsequently of the Czechoslovak presidents.

I welcome you here primarily as head of the Catholic Church, and I rejoice, together with all Catholics, at the fact that you have accepted the invitation of our people and visited our country. I welcome you as a Christian, whose arrival is welcomed not only by Catholics, but together with them, all Christians. More than this, however, I am firmly convinced that in addition to Christians, your arrival also is welcomed by everyone else, all people of goodwill.

I also welcome you here, Your Holiness, as a Slav, who understands our languages and also speaks them. I welcome you as a great son of the fraternal Polish nation. [applause] Perhaps it is also because you have experienced first hand the inhumanity of the totalitarian system that you have associated your pontificate with the idea of human rights. Our struggle for freedom also had its genesis in this great idea, and it is this idea that underpins our policies.

I also welcome you here as our teacher and fellow-combatant, who understands very well the value of peace, tolerance, freedom, and respect for one another. Next, I welcome you as a writer, an intellectual, an erudite man, a man of culture. Our revolution has its clearly legible cultural dimension and cultural face, which is personally close to my—and, I believe your—heart. I therefore am glad that you have found the time to have a meeting here today with representatives of Czech and Slovak culture, and Czech and Slovak intellectuals.

Finally, I welcome you here, if you will permit me, simply as a good man. You have arrived at a time when our country, after several decades, once again is preparing for free elections. It is more than clear that the scope for freedom which has opened up so quickly before us is awakening in all of us, after many years of oppression and humiliation, a natural aspiration for self-assertion, and together with this, countless less admirable qualities, such as personal ambition, lust for power, vanity, and jealous rivalry. Many of us are very quickly forgetting those things that united us only a few months ago, that is the common interest, the interest of the country, and the general interests, rather than our personal interest. This general interest extends far beyond all group interests and interests particular or personal.

I firmly hope that by your visit you will remind us all of the true origin of real human responsibility, that is to say its metaphysical origin. I firmly believe that your visit will remind us all of what we so dearly need to be reminded of today: The absolute horizon of our relations with one another, those unearthly reaches of existence where our every act is inscribed, and in which and through which the true day of judgment eventually will come. I firmly believe that face to face with Your Holiness, we will realize that above the earthly world of our everyday toil there is something that, since time immemorial, has been called heaven.

More and more people are realizing that the future existence of the human race on this earth is today probably more than ever before in the hands of those who are able to think not only of themselves, but who, in their actions, think of all their fellow men without exception. Yes, the future of mankind today lies in the civilization of the spirit, responsibility, and love. All that we know about you suggests that through your charisma, that is what you will remind us of today. I imagine you do not even know how much we need this reminder, especially now in these dramatic days. [applause]

History in our country has ceased to flow against the stream of consciousness. Let us not allow it to do so ever again, no matter under what banner. Holy Father, I welcome you among us sinners! [prolonged applause]

Calfa Speaks as Pope Ends Visit

LD2204204690 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1846 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Speech by Premier Marian Calfa at Ivanka Airport on the occasion of the departure from the CSFR of Pope John Paul II—live]

[Text] Your Holiness! At the end of this wonderful, festive day I would like to thank you for accepting the invitation of Mr. President Vaclav Havel and Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek to visit our country.

You have stepped onto places which for our nations and nationalities symbolize the traditions of statehood and culture. Your steps have encouraged the determination of those who have turned their thirst for justice in past months into determination to give a dignified form to our life. Accept our gratitude for all that which you have done in our country to strengthen faith in the most wonderful ideals of mankind.

You have fulfilled a great wish for millions of citizens of our Republic, and this not only for Roman Catholic believers, who wished to welcome you and to meet you. We know that the journey to our country, to the heart of Europe, has been a sincere wish of yours for a long time. Let us hope that we have now repayed partially the debt which we feel we owe you, because we were not able to fulfill your wish to visit the ancient Velehrad in the mid-1980's, when the whole Christian world commemorated the millennium of the death of Saint Methodius. Then, in our country, the great change was only being prepared, and your wish of that time—to be here with us—no doubt accelerated this change. This is why today many believers could, together with you, pay their respects to the memory of the Slavonic missionaries Cyril and Methodius, whom you have elevated—together with Saint Benedictus—to patrons of Europe.

Now, people of our homeland, together with pilgrims from the whole of Europe, received you as head of the Catholic Church. Your visit has addressed all the positive that exists within us despite differences of views. I am convinced that you, in the course of your short visit, could see for yourself how in our nations and ethnic groups the various Christian traditions are in harmony. Your stay among us no doubt strengthened the feeling of belonging in us all.

You have visited us in a period during which we have started the great construction of a democratic community. We want for this house to stand on a rock and to withstand the problems which the future will present us. We know that this rock upon which our democracy is to stand can be nothing less than freedom of conscience of the individual. We are convinced that the harmony of reason and faith in every one of us, and in the society as a whole, will spin out of this freedom.

A modern, prosperous, and democratic society can grow only from the freed human spirit. There is, however, no freedom of human spirit outside the human culture created for thousands of years. We are drawing from the cultural traditions of Europe also the knowledge that the freedom of spirit has to be ensured by economic and social development. The government is aware of the fact that only modern production, guaranteed provisions, and a healthy environment make it possible for man to lift himself above everyday problems and give a true freedom to human creativity.

Having learned lessons from our own fate, we have in recent months made a pledge to create conditions in every way possible for everyone to be able, without fear, to exercise the freedom of religion. The government of national understanding, which has taken over the administration of public matters in this country, together with governments of national republics, are removing all obstacles preventing the internal life of the church and religious societies. The state has rid itself of the conviction that it is its role to set limits on the religious activity of citizens—to the contrary, we have recognized the fact that the strength of the state depends, among other things, also on the development of the spiritual life of people. The noninterference of the state in the appointment and consecration of bishops, the incorporation of faculties of theology in some universities, discovering how to return church property to orders, and the preparation of the new bill on the freedom of religion and the position of churches and religious societies—which is being prepared in close cooperation with all churches—are, I am convinced, all examples of deeds which have convinced you of the sincerity of our words.

The state, on the other hand, expects an equally sincere attitude on the part of our churches in understanding their place in the life of society.

Your Holiness, you have come among us as the head of the church that wants to call the human community of the whole world to unity, with mutual respect, aid, and service. The one who comes today to this country, with words of compassion, love, and peace, is not only our guest; he is one of us. We have seen you as such, and you will remain in our memory as such. I hope that if you ever think again about another trip to our country, you will not think of it as a visit to a foreign country but as a return to your close friends. Until we see you again soon, Your Holiness. Thank you. [applause]

USSR Signs Currency Protocol 20 Apr

LD2004184990 Prague CTK in English 1634 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Prague 20 April (CTK)—The second round of talks between Czechoslovak and Soviet experts on the conditions and way of transfer to payments in convertible currencies between the two countries finished here today [20 April] by signing a partial protocol.

The delegations of both countries were led by Foreign Trade Ministers Andrej Barcak and Konstantin Katushev.

R2 Billion Trade Surplus With USSR Noted

AU2204203090 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Apr 90 p 2

[Vladimir Cechlovsky article: "World Prices and Convertible Currency"]

[Text] Many of our readers would like to know what the impact of the recent signing of the agreement on preparing for a transition toward world prices and payment in convertible currency in Czechoslovak-Soviet trade beginning 1 January 1991 will be.

The fundamental meaning for us is that, as heretofore, we will be able to pay for raw and other materials—whose share in our imports from the USSR is about 70 percent—with our machinery products. We have to expect, however, that to pay for the same amount of raw materials, we will have to increase the volume of our deliveries. Until now, we have been exchanging machinery and consumer goods—at the valid rate of the transferable rouble and dollar—for higher prices than average world prices; this advantage will cease to exist now. Many matters will have to be settled. For example, the payment methods for our deliveries are unknown. In the world market, it is quite common for raw materials to be paid for on delivery; whereas toward machinery or consumer products a long- or short-term credit is applied. It is also necessary to consider Czechoslovakia's surplus in the balance of payments, which has developed due to the averaging the world prices of crude oil and natural gas over five-year periods. The surplus amounts to almost 2 billion transferable roubles and will continue to increase by almost 500 million roubles by the end of the year. In order to cover this surplus, a government agreement providing a credit to the USSR of up to 2 billion roubles, payable after 1995, was signed late last year.

Dienstbier Receives Departing Soviet Envoy

LD2004195490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, deputy federal premier and foreign minister, today received Viktor Lomakin, Soviet ambassador in Czechoslovakia, in connection with the completion of his diplomatic mission, which he has been carrying out since May 1984. They agreed that Czechoslovak-Soviet relations, which were particularly disturbed by the military intervention in August 1968, are based today on the principles of sovereignty, equality, and mutual advantage.

Sacher Delivers 'Top Secret' Files to Charter 77

AU2204201390 Prague PRACE in Czech 14 Apr 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Not Only Mountains Open Magically On Good Friday To Reveal the Hidden Treasures, Archives of the Federal Ministry of Interior Do, Too; Formerly Top Secret"]

[Text] Prague—Yesterday [13 April], at the Federal Ministry of Interior in Prague, Minister Richard Sacher handed over to Charter 77 spokesmen a total of 38 binders of files on investigations of Charter 77 representatives from January 1977 to November 1989.

Materials stamped "top secret" containing documents on "subversive activities against the republic" by Jiri Dienstbier, Vaclav Havel, Petr Uhl, and others, however, will not immediately become public. Charter 77 agreed to have the documents deposited in the Contemporary History Institute of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences to be scientifically processed.

Charter 77 spokesmen honored the occasion by giving Richard Sacher a book on Charter 77, which they inscribed with the dedication: "In memory of the great day when Charter 77 for the first time freely set foot on the soil of the Federal Ministry of Interior." Minister Sacher thanked them and said that in the same way as the mountains magically open on Good Friday to yield the earth's treasures, so today did the Federal Ministry of Interior archives open to produce a treasure—the testimony on human determination to change a totalitarian system, a testimony on moral purity.

Forum Calls for 'Radical Purge' of Offices

LD2004174490 Prague CTK in English 1337 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 20 (CTK)—The Civic Forum Coordinating Centre has issued a statement today stressing that it is interested in a radical purge of all power bodies and believing that the activities of the Interior Ministry must be under the control of the Federal Assembly.

The statement referred to the latest controversies regarding the work of the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry and to yesterday's parliament session at which chairman of its Defence and Security Committee Ladislav Lis criticized Federal Interior Minister Dr Richard Sacher.

The statement recalled the Forum's discontent for some time with the Interior Ministry activities, not with the minister's work but the functioning of the ministry, and stressed the conviction that the power and political influence of the state security has not yet been broken, especially at lower levels, and this posed one of the biggest dangers for the coming elections and the country's fate in general.

Sacher Defends Actions, Responds to Critics

AU2004110790 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 18 Apr 90 p 3

[Interview with Federal Minister of Interior Richard Sacher by Jan Kastanek on 17 April; place not given: "Who Is Stirring Up Mud and Who Wants to Bring About a Political Crisis?"]

[Excerpts] [Kastanek] In the years of the totalitarian regime, the minister of interior was always somewhat shrouded in mystery. Who was the minister's boss—the premier or the chief of the relevant Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee department? To whom was the minister accountable? To parliament or to this department in the center of the leading political party? As a matter of fact, all this did not really matter—the CPCZ and the state were one and the same thing. What is the situation now? Why is Richard Sacher, LLD, the federal minister of interior, a man enjoying popularity with the general public and the trust of the president of the republic, a lawyer with substantial expertise, a man who is also determined to defy the old, compromised structures within his government department, being criticized in some newspapers all of a sudden? Once it is because of the slow pace [of reforms within the ministry] and alleged softness toward the former state security, once because he opened the [Interior Ministry] archives. Why is there tension between him and some senior ministry officials? Is the matter not quite transparent, despite all the cunningness [of Sacher's critics]? Is the real issue not the fact that—as our colleagues from MLADA FRONTA objectively and correctly observed in their article "Hide-and-Seek"—the election struggle is starting and the minister, as a member of the Czechoslovak People's Party [CSL], represents the strong and for this reason, to some people inconvenient, Christian and Democratic Union? It is Tuesday, 0700. Minister R. Sacher opened the interview on these matters with these words:

[Sacher] I will answer the question with another question: Do you remember February 1948? At that time a dispute broke out between the [interior] minister, a communist, and officers, members of other political parties. Is the similarity merely coincidental? I believe that the democratic development in our country is threatened and that we could squander much of what we gained through the velvet revolution. But let us move on to my government department. The minister is accountable to parliament. To be able to implement the security policy of the state and its government, he must avail himself of the necessary legal powers guaranteed by the constitution. There are people who might even demand the physical liquidation of former members of the state security corps, which is something we cannot allow. There are also other people, people who slow down the screenings [of former state security members] or who should not be on the screening commissions. I shall give you an example. The screenings proceed slowly, at a snail's pace, under the leadership of my deputy, Mr. Jaroslav Prochazka, LLD. Mr. Prochazka was also put in charge of creating the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy; one of the tasks of this office is to paralyze the old structures, that is, to prevent the compromised members of state security from creating a fifth column. Many of them are trying, quite keenly, to do precisely that. Deputy Minister Mr. Prochazka proceeded in these matters not only dilatorily but also amateurishly. I may be a layman in some respects, but I am not a simpleton as many a "specialist" believed, and I want him to be replaced. The same applies also to another case. A hue and cry is then raised, the matter is taken up by the defense and security committees of the

Federal Assembly chambers, and confidence in the minister and, subsequently, in his deputies is voiced. There is also another matter, concerning the Civic Forum Coordinating Center.

[Kastanek] You must be thinking of Engineer O. Hromadko, doctor of social sciences.

[Sacher] Exactly him. When the Prosecutor General's Office alerted us to some facts, it was necessary to examine them. It turned out that this gentleman, with whom I neither wish to nor can sit at one table, not only is active in the Civic Forum but that, what is more, he was even more active in the fifties, when he occupied a leading position in the state security corps and was a very loyal servant of the totalitarian regime. A man can change his convictions in the course of years, but this seems improbable in his case. Does this gentleman have the right to screen his former colleagues? [passage omitted containing excerpts from archive materials concerning Oldrich Hromadko (currently chairman of the security committee of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center), particularly his activities as commander in the "Jerab" forced labor camp in the fifties; the material includes excerpts from Hromadko-signed protocols on camp inmates who were shot dead while trying to escape]

[Kastanek] Mr. Minister, you are supposedly also being accused of traveling much and of favoring your political party....

[Sacher] All my trips abroad have been official, in my capacity as minister. It is astonishing that one of them was used to discuss personnel questions in the ministry, in the minister's absence. I have been to Great Britain, the United States, Italy, and the USSR. In all these countries I had purely official and, I would say, useful talks. As for the CSL, I implement the policy of the state and of the government, not party policy. With a few exceptions, I really have no time to get involved in party politics. And, as you know, I do not even give LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE, the CSL press organ, preferential access to information.

[Kastanek] I sincerely regret this. One last question—how would you characterize the current situation from the perspective of the ministry's jurisdiction?

[Sacher] Attempts are being made to provoke disputes that would result in a crisis situation. It is easy to guess who is behind this. It is necessary to resist this. Let us be glad that nothing of the kind of thing that is going on in Romania has happened in our country. The problems will be discussed by the government in a few hours. Let us wait and see....

More on Sacher Response

LD2004204690 Prague CTK in English 1758 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Interior Minister Richard Sacher said in the Parliament yesterday [19 April] that a shadow leadership existed at the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior.

His address reacted to criticism voiced by Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the Parliament's House of Nations Ladislav Sis.

Minister Sacher described members of the screening commission and the commission of experts as organizers of this shadow leadership. He said that pressure was exerted on him to take significant but at the same time unqualified decisions. He pointed out that these efforts aimed at having control over the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry and paralyzing the security apparatus as well as the government. According to Minister Sacher, attempts have occurred to discredit the Czechoslovak government by claims on its inability to ensure state security against foreign intelligence services and international terrorist organizations.

In his speech, the interior minister paid great attention to cadre changes at the ministry. He complained that he is being forced to accept as his colleagues people who were state security members already before 1948, took an active part in the coup in February 1948 and worked for state security also in the 1950's. He recalled that it had been at that time that foundations for the totalitarian system had been laid. Some people who had actively built this system in the 1950's are active even today in the process of purification of the Interior Ministry. Richard Sacher admitted that many people from the old structures remained at the ministry. "It is obvious that we want to replace this apparatus but we are not able to replace it all at once and immediately", the minister stressed.

Minister Sacher also spoke of the problem of the screening of deputies. He stressed that when he had found out that the director of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy gathers information about persons in significant political functions, he immediately banned this activity carried out without his knowledge. He said he has ordered all evidence connected with the screening to be put in a vault to ensure its inaccessibility.

Commenting on the situation in the Interior Ministry, he said that some meetings, attended by his deputies, are being held behind his back. He complained about pressures being exerted with the aim to separate the minister from executive components and from information.

"Perhaps not enough decisions have been taken at this ministry. Nevertheless I am of the opinion that enough has been done to prevent a similar development like in Romania", the minister stressed.

He denied alleged pressure from the Communist Party members and bodies aimed at his resignation and said that on April 17 several persons from the coordinating centre of the civic forum asked him to resign.

Deputy to the house of the people Michal Maly, without party affiliation, reacted to the speech of the minister of the interior by a statement delivered in the parliament and handed over to CTK as well. According to the statement Michal Maly has heard Richard Sacher talking to people assembled in front of the Federal Assembly building and stressing that the Communists are in the background of the pressure for his resignation. In connection with this event Michal Maly cast doubt also on other Sacher's statements and stressed that by its activities the Ministry of the Interior jeopardizes security.

Sacher's Critics Specify Charges Against Him

AU2004171790 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 19 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Vladimir Mlynar report: "Conflict in the Ministry of Interior"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Members of the Interior Ministry's Central Screening Commission gave a news conference in Prague yesterday afternoon [18 April]. Alongside Radek Prochazka and Jan Kozlik, members of the screening commission, the journalists' questions were also answered by V. Ciklamini, LLD, and J. Prochazka, LLD, deputy ministers of interior. Their very introductory statement that ultimately they wish to introduce clarity into the problems at the Federal Ministry of Interior suggested that we would hear some interesting information.

A statement by the screening commission, which began its activity on 5 March 1990, was read out loud and subsequently distributed among the journalists. The statement gives an account of the disputes between Minister Sacher and members of the commission. Some cases are mentioned specifically; for example, that of General Lorenc, former deputy minister of interior, who became Minister Sacher's consultant; that of former deputy minister Nezval, formerly a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee apparatus, who was offered a job abroad; and the case of Captain Kralka, who took an active part in repressive actions against the opposition and was a member of the operational staff on 17 November. These officers, along with 1,300 other members of state security who had been transferred to other departments prior to 17 November, have been exempted from screening by order of Minister Sacher. By the interior minister's order No. 47 of 1990, instructions were issued to "make illegible" in the records membership in political parties by members of the corps, even though their political and professional attitudes are closely intertwined. The commission was thus unable to serve the purpose for which it was created—to screen the highest-ranking commanders of the ministry and members of the lower-level screening commissions. The minister showed no interest in the work of the commission. It thus happened that one of the chiefs of the former administration for investigations of the State Security Corps has been appointed to the post of chief of the Office for the Investigation of Anti-Constitutional Activity. The man in question is Major Miroslav Mosna, who called himself "Burda."

Other people from the ministry's old structure who continue to work in the immediate vicinity of the minister were also mentioned. The most frequently mentioned name in this context was that of Major Novotny, head of the minister's secretariat. It was he who carried out the screening of Federal Assembly deputies, allegedly upon instruction from Minister Sacher. This happened at a time when the minister halted the screening of some employees of ministries, which was carried out by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy (this office is headed by Z. Formanek, LLD) at the request of the relevant ministers.

As for the question of Minister Sacher's secret strategy, we learned that the role of a mediator was to be played by Dr. Ladislav Hejdanek, who familiarized himself with this strategy and considered its correctness. The journalists were also presented with Mr. Hejdanek's statement, in which he takes exception to the minister's conduct and expresses concern at the situation in the Federal Ministry of Interior.

The Federal Assembly's security and defense committee is familiar with the whole situation. As we reported yesterday, it has requested that an inquiry be launched into the utilization of the Interior Ministry's archives.

In the lobbies, one can hear people talk of Sacher-gate. It is evident that the long-simmering conflict around the Ministry of Interior and Minister Sacher has reached the boiling point.

Sokol Maintains Position on Outlawing CPCZ

AU2004141090 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Prague City Prosecutor Tomas Sokol by a "jl"-signed MLADA FRONTA correspondent in Prague on 18 April: "The Prosecutor Has Not Changed His Mind"]

[Text] "Will communists be outlawed?," a VECERNI PRAHA distributor shouted in the subway station at I.P. Pavlov Square yesterday afternoon. "No, they will somehow lie their way out of it," a passer-by laconically commented. A few minutes later we entered the office of T. Sokol, LLD, the Prague city prosecutor. As he stated by way of introduction, the negative stand of the leadership of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Czech Republic on his letter "has been reported" to him. Does this mean that the city prosecutor's letter was sent out without prior consultation with his superior body?

"I did not consult with anyone about this step," Dr. Sokol replies. "It is an expression of my conviction as a human being and a lawyer."

[MLADA FRONTA] In other words, it can be understood as the expression of your private opinion?

[Sokol] In view of my position as city prosecutor, it must be regarded as the standpoint of the city prosecutor's office. This does not mean, of course, that I claim that everyone who works here concurs with this standpoint. I cannot speak for anyone else but, nonetheless, my letter to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee must be understood as the expression of the opinion of an office and not as that of a private person who says something over a beer.

[MLADA FRONTA] Do you expect other bodies, including the highest political circles, to support your standpoint?

[Sokol] It is not within my competence to comment or expect anything in this regard. Look, I arrived at a certain legal decision. Naturally, I expected it to trigger all kinds of reactions, in view of the complex nature of the current times. If, however, I arrive at the expert opinion that someone is engaged in criminal activity, I cannot close my eyes to it out of political considerations. We would once again find ourselves where we once were.

[MLADA FRONTA] How would you comment on some views expressed in the press that your letter is part of the preelection struggle?

[Sokol] I am a nonpolitical person and do not belong to any political party. Everyone is entitled to comment on my conduct as he wishes. However, there is nothing in my five-page paper that could be called untrue.

[MLADA FRONTA] In other words, this means that—unless something happens which you cannot influence—you will insist that the CPCZ terminate its activity on the territory of the capital of Prague by 30 April this year?

[Sokol] Exactly. I will not change my standpoint one iota. I continue to regard the CPCZ's operation as criminal activity.

Communists Voice Fear of New 'Totalitarianism'

LD2304084790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0200 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tasks of communists in the Czech Republic in the preelection campaign was discussed in Prague yesterday [22 April] by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

It adopted a statement on the present situation entitled Democracy or Totalitarianism? which expresses the fear of new totalitarianism replacing the previous totalitarianism. The statement also stresses the need for the same conditions for all who wish to take part in the development of a democratic, pluralistic, and prosperous society.

Prague Correspondent Berates Treatment of CP

AU2004143690 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 19 Apr 90 p 3

[Article by Prague correspondent Todor Koruev: "Prague Prosecutor Threatens Communist Party"]

[Text] Prague, 18 April—Today's Czechoslovak dailies publish a letter from Prague's City Prosecutor Doctor Tomas Sokol to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] which he submitted to the CTK News Agency for publication. The letter announces that as of 1 May 1990, the political activities of the CPCZ on the capital's territory shall be regarded as a criminal act on the basis of Article 260 of the Penal Code. This article is directed against "those who support and propagate fascism, or any other similar movement which tries to suppress the working people's rights and freedoms, or preaches enmity between nationalities, races, and religions."

The letter ends with the statement: "The date 30 April 1990 has been set as a deadline for the period within which the essence of your ideology should be clarified and all administrative problems related to discontinuing the activities of your apparatus within the limits of Prague should be resolved."

Numerous citizens expressed disapproval of this "preposterous letter" and are surprised that the protectors of the law are stirring unrest in the country. This is confirmed by numerous telephone calls to RUDE PRAVO in which people pointed out that the actions of the Prague City prosecutor contradict the government policy of national consensus advocated by President Havel himself. In his commentary entitled "Communists Know What Fascism Is," RUDE PRAVO's chief editor Zdenek Porybny reminded the Prague City prosecutor that 25,000 Communists perished as victims of fascism and that many of them were persecuted and imprisoned. He also points out that the CPCZ is a legal political party which respects the Constitution and the laws of the country and that it has been officially registered to participate in the parliamentary elections.

The letter shows that the escalation of anti-communism is assuming new forms.

An eloquent speaker—member of parliament at that—recently appeared on television and ironically urged the CPCZ to publicly admit its total failure and to pay for the years of domination. A minister announced from the rostrum of a mass rally, attended by thousands of people, that the prisons are ready to receive communists. The chairman of the People's Party pompously proclaimed to the world news agencies that "the Communists are preparing for a new coup like the one of 1948." These are only a few examples showing how the new political "stage managers" are trying to prevent the CPCZ from participating in the elections on the basis of equal rights, and even try to outlaw it. This is perhaps a result of their disappointment that, despite the party's great defeat on 17 November 1989, the CPCZ did not end up on the dung heap of history, but remained on the political scene, and is now trying to reform.

Nevertheless, the Prague City prosecutor's attempt to "purge the capital from Communists by 30 April 1990" can only be described as the consummate undemocratic act in a society which solemnly claims to be democratic in the eyes of the whole world.

An extraordinary joint session of the CPCZ Central Committee Executive Committee and of the executive committees of the central committees of the Communist parties of Bohemia and Moravia was held in the afternoon, at which a declaration was adopted describing Doctor Sokol's letter as an abuse of his official duties and as an attempt to discredit a legal political party, as an ideological speculation based on personal views. If such personal opinions should become the basis of the city prosecutor's legal decisions, we should seriously question his competence and ability to implement his duties, the declaration states in assessing the letter and its publication as an attempt to stir up social tension, which jeopardizes the program for democratic changes in the country. The declaration insists that the letter be declared as invalid.

At a news conference of the CPCZ Central Committee, it was announced that letters on the subject have been dispatched to the leaderships of West European communist and socialist parties, to Socialist International, to the Helsinki Committee, and to other organizations acquainted with the decision of the Prague City Prosecutor's Office. Representatives of diplomatic missions from numerous countries, including Bulgaria, were also informed.

It was also announced that the Chief Prosecutor of the Bohemian Republic distanced himself from Doctor Sokol's letter, declaring it as legally incorrect.

Mohorita Addresses Communist Party Meeting

LD2104200990 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] I think the main question is not whether the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] is or is not capable of rebirth. The main question is whether the future path of this republic will be truly pluralist and democratic. This was emphasized today by Vasil Mohorita, first secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee session in Prague. He repeated once again that the vast majority of members of the CPCZ welcome the changes following 17 November and want to take an active part in the realization of all reforms. The primary task is to prove in every way that the newly forming party of Communists, the party of labor and democratic socialism, knows how and is able to work for the benefit of all. This is precisely what determines our future policy, said Vasil Mohorita.

Communist Party Youth Organization Set Up

AU2204202290 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Apr 90 p 2

["per"-signed report: "Establishment of the Communist Youth Union"]

[Text] Prague (From our correspondent)—The establishment of the Communist Youth Union (KSM) [Komunisticky svaz mladeze] is the result of a nationwide meeting of representatives of young people sympathizing with the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ]; the meeting ended in Prague on Saturday [14 April]. The KSM is an independent and voluntary social organization of young people who subscribe to the CPCZ action program and who support the party's election program. The meeting, which changed into a constituent conference, adopted a program declaration, organizational regulations, and elected a 21-member Central Council headed by Petr Simunek.

Vasil Mohorita, CPCZ Central Committee first secretary, also visited the young people. He stressed that it is important to explore ways toward mutual understanding and cooperation among young people. He called on members of the union to set out as the objective of the organization and as a preparation for life in general the endeavor to think freely, not to yield to authorities, and to critically examine everything that is presented to them for a solution.

At the conclusion of the constituent conference, it was said that the KSM intends to offer to its members ample satisfaction of their needs in the special-interest, social, and political spheres.

Two Deputy Interior Ministers Replaced

LD2004195990 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1500 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] On the proposal of Richard Sacher, federal minister of the interior, the government of national understanding today recalled Colonel Dr. Viliam Ciklamini from the post of first deputy minister [of the interior] and Colonel Jaroslav Prochazka from the post of deputy federal minister of the interior. Colonel Dr. Andrej Samel, currently the deputy minister, and Major Miroslav Kral have been appointed to replace them.

Deputy Interior Minister Accused of Leaking Secret

LD2304103890 Prague CTK in English 0959 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 23 (CTK)—Colonel Jaroslav Prochazka, who on April 20 this year was relieved of his post as Czechoslovak deputy federal interior minister, was accused on April 19 by investigator of the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry's inspection Major Josef Ejem of being a threat to a service secret.

Jaroslav Prochazka could be imprisoned for one year. The ruling states that Colonel Prochazka committed this crime on April 18 at a press conference which took place at the Civic Forum's coordinating centre by giving out information concerning the proposed use of police methods for securing the mood and views of people from the office for the protection of the constitution and democracy. According to the Interior Ministry's special section, the information forms the subject of a service secret.

When asked for his opinion, Jaroslav Prochazka stated that he did not find out anything at the interior minister's meeting about the proposed use of police methods in securing the mood and views of the public. This concept had, for a long time, been the subject of contention between himself and the minister. He considers this a political affair which, in the period of the reconstruction of the Interior Ministry and construction of the ministry's office for the protection of the constitution and democracy, should be open to public discussion connected with the working out of a security doctrine. An idea of the mood and views of the people can be obtained in an altogether different way other than through police methods which, so far, are outside legal jurisdiction.

The conflict between the Czech Interior Minister Richard Sacher and his two deputies Viliam Ciklamini and Jaroslav Prochazka was the subject for interpellation last week by the defense and security committees of both houses of parliament at the Federal Assembly. Then both deputy ministers were relieved of their posts. Minister Sacher accused them of creating a second control center at the ministry behind his back.

Deputy Defense Minister Gives News Conference

AU2004145190

[Editorial Report] Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech on 19 April on page 3 carries a 250-word CTK report on a news conference given by Antonin Rasek, "deputy minister of national defense in charge of culture and education," in Prague on 18 April. Rasek's news conference is also the subject of a 150-word "jp"-signed report in Prague PRACE in Czech on 19 April on page 3. The LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE report focuses on Rasek's remarks on the role of the church in the Army. Rasek is quoted as having said that chapels will not be established in Army barracks since there are some 20 different churches in Czechoslovakia, each of which could lay this claim; nor will clergymen have "free access" to military establishments. Soldiers who have "fulfilled all their duties" will, however, be allowed to attend religious services (including the pope's forthcoming visit) and if an individual needs religious comfort, he can arrange for a visit by a priest. Telephone numbers of priests will be posted in Army barracks for this purpose.

Speaking about ways of ensuring participation in the parliamentary elections by the Army, Rasek says that "the election campaign in the Army will be strictly of a nonpartisan character." Soldiers will vote only in civilian polling districts; no special polling districts will be established in military installations or schools. Even soldiers who are in prison for disciplinary reasons will be able to vote.

The PRACE report quotes Rasek as having said that the Czechoslovak Army command "will not lay claim to buildings vacated by Soviet soldiers if the civilian public shows interest in them." At the same time, the Army "will probably have to vacate some 130 buildings throughout the republic, mostly buildings which belong to churches or are considered to be historical monuments." The PRACE report mentions that Rasek is only the second civilian in postwar Czechoslovakia to occupy the post of deputy minister of defense.

Poll on Pace of Reform, Laws

AU2204201890 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Apr 90 p 3

[CTK report: "Majority Prefers No Shake-Ups"]

[Text] Prague— From 27 March to 4 April, the Institute for Public Opinion Research conducted a survey on the opinion of Czechoslovak citizens on economic reforms. A total of 726 people representing the population older than 15 has been surveyed.

A total of 53 percent of respondents are in favor of slower economic changes in order to avoid large social shake-ups. A total of 35 percent believe that changes should be made as fast as possible.

During the same period, the citizens were polled on their opinion on the strike as a radical form of pressure to push for the demands of the working people. Pushing for one's own demands by striking is considered to be correct by 6 percent, 48 percent believe that the right to strike depends on what is at stake, and 43 percent of the respondents believe that strikes are not the correct tool for solving problems.

According to the survey, 49 percent of Czechoslovak population is in favor of retaining the death penalty, whereas 33 percent of people are against it, while six percent do not know and 12 percent are unable to make up their mind.

The institute also conducted a survey on which of the laws should be passed by the Federal Assembly first. Social policy and pension plans are priorities for 31 percent of the population, 23 percent prefer an early passage of the laws on state and cooperative enterprises and joint stock companies, while the law on private enterprise is eagerly awaited by 17 percent of people.

Only three percent of the respondents give priority to the discussions on the republic's name, state emblem, and flag. Only one percent recommends revising the criminal law.

The question "Do you believe that some of the Armed Forces could interfere with the current development?" has been answered as follows: As far as the State Security is concerned, at the beginning of 1990, 38 percent answered "yes," compared to 28 percent of respondents today; on the other hand, 52 percent said "no" at the beginning of this year, compared to 60 percent of respondents today. In the first months of this year, 20 percent were afraid of Public Security Corps, whereas today it is 15 percent. At the beginning of this year, 70 percent said "No," compared to 76 percent today. [At the beginning of the year] a total of 12 percent believed that the Army could interfere, now only 10 percent believe this. At the beginning of the year, 78 percent believed that the Army would not interfere, today 80 percent of the respondents share this opinion. As far as People's Militia is concerned, 16 percent believe that it could interfere, 72 percent do not believe in this possibility.

Labor Minister Optimistic About Unemployment Rate

AU2304093990

[Editorial Report] Prague PRACE in Czech on 18 April on page 5 carries a 1,500-word interview with Petr Miller, federal minister of labor and social affairs, by Ladislav Bognar entitled "No One Will Be Left Without Means." The place and date of the interview are not given. In his initial replies, Miller comments on his recent visit to Switzerland and the FRG. Speaking about his talks at the Geneva headquarters of the International Labor Office [ILO], Miller says that their aim was to express Czechoslovakia's endeavor to "return to Europe," to affirm its determination to comply with ILO conventions, and to take an active part in its work. Referring to his talks with his FRG counterpart Blum, Miller says that they "exchanged standpoints on the problem and conditions of Czechoslovak citizens' employment abroad" and that the relevant "agreement on mutual cooperation in the sphere of the market of labor" should be signed during Blum's forthcoming visit to Prague. The West German side reportedly also promised to receive a group of Czechoslovak experts to let them study the FRG system of labor exchanges, retraining, and unemployment benefits.

Miller goes on to discuss his ministry's preparations for the "possible emergence of unemployment." He notes that "labor exchanges are being built at present," which should replace labor sections operating under national committees. He also advocates the formation of ministries of labor and social affairs in the Czech and Slovak Republics as the labor exchanges' superior bodies. Asked about the expected extent of unemployment in Czechoslovakia, Miller says that, unlike Western journalists and government representatives he meets, "we expect that, should unemployment occur at all, it will not exceed two percent, i.e. 150,000 people, which would be tolerable." Explaining the reasons for his optimism, Miller says: "First of all, we have an unsatisfied demand for consumer goods. We also rely on the newly starting entrepreneurs, which is why we are in such a hurry to have the law on private enterprise drawn up and passed. The entrepreneurs' association has some 120,000 members at present. If each of them employs at least two people, there will be no unemployment here. Another great untapped reserve is the large number of working pensioners; we will probably regulate the employment of pensioners in some way. Furthermore, we employ 46,000 foreigners. We will have to assume a different attitude to the employment of foreigners in Czechoslovakia, compared with the past, with the aim of reducing their number in a reasonable way. Cuban workers will stop working here by the end of the year, with the exception of 110 workers in the Avia factory. I will be conducting talks also with Angola, Vietnam, Mongolia, etc. from this new angle of vision."

Minister Expects Problems in Power Supply

AU2304081290 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 12 Apr 90 p 8

["br"-signed report: "The Power Industry's Challenging Future"]

[Text] A conference with Jaroslav Suva, federal minister of fuels and power, took place yesterday [11 April] in the ministry's building. The current situation in this government department was discussed as well as the problems that have accumulated in our system of fuel and power supply. The situation is a true reflection of the price, legislative, and management jungle in which this country finds itself.

Subsidies for the supply of coal, coke, gas, and heat are the major problem. These subsidies are expected to amount to about 8 billion korunas this year. The ministry will, according to Jaroslav Suva, demand a price increase to make the sector profitable. Only two (Sokolov and Most) of our six coal basins are making a profit. All the others are subsidized. The proportion of coal in our overall fuel supply is three times higher than in the EEC countries.

Troublesome years in electric power generation are in the offing. There is in our country a dearth of power stations, which would be ecologically and economically acceptable. Another problem will shortly become acute; namely, finding new ash-disposal sites. Hard currency for purchasing lime-based desulphurizing units needed in the Pocerady, Prunerov, Melnik, and Novaky power stations can only be obtained by exporting electric power, which we must concurrently import from CEMA countries.

It will be necessary to diversify supplies of natural gas, 96 percent of which comes from the USSR at present. Preliminary talks are conducted regarding imports from Algeria or the construction of a joint pipeline for Czechoslovakia and Poland from Norway. The import of natural gas is, however, threatened by the expected increase of its price on world markets.

Slovak Christian Democrats Publish Own Daily

AU2304101590 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 18 Apr 90 p 3

["vas"-signed report: "They Made It..."]

[Text] Easter Saturday [14 April] went down in the history of Slovak journalism—after decades of a lack of freedom, a Christian newspaper is again being published in Slovakia. It is being published by our sister organization, the Christian Democratic Movement, under the title SLOVENSKY DENNIK [Slovak Daily]. SLOVENSKY DENNIK builds on the tradition and great popularity of its predecessor, BRATISLAVSKE LISTY, which was founded by J. Carnogursky, LLD, the well-known defender of human rights and current deputy federal premier, in 1988 as a samizdat publication. His brother, Engineer I. Carnogursky, told us about the preparation of this new daily, which took the record time of only one month: "It was by no means easy to fight our way through to this day. Old communist harbingers were doing all they could to confine Christian ideas to church buildings. First we had to wage a battle for tonnes of newsprint, then for space in a printing plant, for the paper's distribution, for premises for the editorial office, and, most important of all, for journalists capable of producing a new, modern, and at the same time Christian newspaper. There were times when we thought that communism had seized control of the ideological battlefield of the press forever. But we have made it, after all, and our daily is being published—for keeps, so we hope."

Slovak Social Democrats Publish Own Daily

AU2304102390 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 14 Apr 90 p 2

["mn,do"-signed report: "New Dailies"]

[Excerpt] Banska Bystrica/Bratislava—A new periodical has been seeking the favor of the reading public since yesterday [13 April], when the first issue of LUDOVE NOVINY [People's Newspaper], daily of the Social Democratic Party in Slovakia, appeared on the newsstands. Along with the head editorial office in Banska Bystrica, there are branch offices in Bratislava, Zilina, and Kosice. LUDOVE NOVINY will be published six times a week, i.e., daily except for Sunday. [passage omitted]

Weekly for Businessmen To Be Launched 1 Sep

AU2304095590 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 18 Apr 90 p 12

[CTK report: "Information for Managers"]

[Excerpt] Bratislava— CTK in Slovakia will be publishing HOSPODARSKA KORESPONDENCIA [Economic Correspondence], a weekly for managers, senior executives, and entrepreneurs, beginning 1 September this year. It will have 32 pages in addition to an irregular 32-page supplement for advertisements (its regularity will depend on the interest of Czechoslovak and foreign advertisers). HOSPODARSKA KORESPONDENCIA, which will carry business news from Czechoslovakia and abroad, will be available only to subscribers. [passage omitted]

De Maiziere: Wage Exchange Rate 'Not Negotiable'

LD2104131690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1152 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Saarland (ADN)—Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere is to insist on an exchange rate of 1:1 in monetary negotiations with the Federal Government. As for wages, salaries and pensions, this rate is "not negotiable", he said today in a joint interview for GDR radio and Saarland radio. He called for clearly defined protective periods and assistance measures for the GDR economy with unification.

GDR wages stand at a rate of 1:3 with FRG wages, said de Maiziere.

"If we had a conversion rate of 1:2 that would mean a ratio of 1:6. If one were also to reduce subsidies, the ratio would be even more unfavorable." He warned that income differentials would cause more people to leave for the West again.

The prime minister further added: "We cannot confront our agriculture with the EC market unprotected within three weeks or three months. That would have catastrophic consequences." Questions related to periods of transition and harmonization must be negotiated with the EC. "I don't see why for example our market should have to contend with the strong economic strength of the EC with less protection than that afforded to Portugal, Spain, or Greece."

De Maiziere on Unification Talks, Exchange Rate

AU2304124890 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 23 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Premier Lothar de Maiziere by Peter Keller in East Berlin; date not given: "I Hope That Europe Will Become More Eastern"]

[Text] [Keller] Mr. de Maiziere, you have compared the competition for Germany's unity with the unequal fight between David and Goliath. You probably consider the GDR to be David, who, as is known, won the fight. What kind of stone slings does the Bonn Goliath have to expect over the next few days?

[De Maiziere] Do you know, this comes from a television interview where they wanted to tell me that we are too small and feeble to participate in negotiations at all. I stressed in my government statement that we are not striving for a businesslike partnership but rather for a real one, and this does not include the stone sling.

[Keller] You are standing fast in connection with the 1:1 exchange rate for wages, salaries, and pensions, but you are for different solutions concerning the savings of GDR citizens. As a result, the Frankfurt Bundesbank has already threatened to reduce loans and has emphatically pointed out the danger of inflation. Is your 1:1 demand still negotiable or is it definitely your last word?

[De Maiziere] As regards wages, salaries, and pensions, it is not negotiable! You must know that the wage level in our country is 1:3 compared with the FRG. If we then had an exchange rate of 1:2, we would have a ratio of 1:6, and if we then reduce the subsidies, the ratio becomes even more unfavorable. I think that this cannot be in the interest of the FRG Government nor that of the FRG either. Because then—given such marked differences in income—the people would certainly leave the country, as they have done for weeks and months.

[Keller] Is it possible that the economic, monetary, and social union will fail because of the dispute over the exchange rate or other important details?

[De Maiziere] Your question implies that failure may result. This is precisely what I do not want to do at the moment. After all, one starts negotiations with the aim of successfully concluding them ....

[Keller] ... You are firmly determined to manage all this as quickly as possible?

[De Maiziere] Yes!

[Keller] Many observers see the exchange rate issue as being something of an acid test which will determine the strengths of both parties to the negotiations.

[De Maiziere] We have quite a lot of good reasons to justify this 1:1 rate. However, I am not willing to cite all these arguments now. I must ensure that I keep something up my sleeve.

[Keller] ... So, after all, maximum demands for the public?

[De Maiziere] As regards the exchange rate only—not concerning wages, salaries, and pensions!

[Keller] Do you see the GDR in the future—the more it grows together with the EC—in the role of the advocate for the states that are still CEMA members and for neutral states, such as Austria and Switzerland, where the pressure for EC membership is increasing?

[De Maiziere] I hope greatly that Europe will not be thought to be Europe just up to the Elbe river, but that its boundaries will become considerably more eastern and that our experiences in dealing with East peoples will be included.

Perhaps one has to remember that—if one talks about Central European time—this is the Goerlitz meridian and not the one that runs through Frankfurt/Main. There must also be negotiations with the EC.

[Keller] What period of time are you thinking of concerning the monetary union?

[De Maiziere] The wishes of the people will determine this, and they want to go on vacation with Deutsche marks.

De Maiziere Calls State Treaty 'Bilateral'

LD2104183790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1736 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—Prime Minster Lothar de Maiziere is to insist on an exchange rate of 1:1 in monetary negotiations with the federal government. [passage omitted]

Asked about the state treaty, he said that what has been published in the newspapers is a draft drawn up by an expert, which at no time had the importance which has been attached to it. These are unofficial documents. Up to now, the negotiating stage has not been reached. In reply to the question of whether he regarded the treaty as a statement of capitulation, De Maiziere said: A treaty is always a bilateral document.

Talking about the membership of a united Germany in NATO, he pointed to possible solutions that would have to be found in the two-plus-four negotiations.

Speaking about annexation according to the Saarland model, he said that there were quite clearly defined protection times and promotion measures. He would also bring this position into the negotiations. Speaking about the timetable for economic, currency, and social union, he pointed out that this is determined by people's wishes and they want "to go on holiday with Deutschemarks," De Maiziere said.

Asked about his attitude to the former state apparatus, he said that one wanted to "dare to trust." That is an important basis for work in the GDR in the near future.

He is one of the people in the GDR who "never put the GDR behind them," nor did he want to do so, De Maiziere said. If one wants to conquer the future, then this can only happen with one's own past. How far younger people succeed in becoming "unified Germans" more quickly depends on what extent openness and more European consciousness enter into the educational system. He cherished the hope that Europe will become significantly more "eastern" and that the cultures and experience of the East European peoples will be assimilated.

Asked about the lack of direction among many young people, he said, among other things, that vocational training should not be left at the mercy of anarchy and a lack of regulation.

He rejected ideas about the formation of only two Lands on the territory of the GDR. The formation of Lands is "our task of shaping." Saxony wants to remain Saxony and Thuringia Thuringia. People's sense of home has to be maintained.

De Maiziere came out in favor of greater involvement of the two parliaments in the unification process.

Speaking about the Lithuanian crisis, he said that "it would be good if there were a model for the agreement of the Baltic states with the Moscow central government."

De Maiziere on Soviet Trade, Former Officials

LD2304084990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0628 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Bonn (DPA)—In the negotiations on the unification of the two German states, the GDR governing coalition will seek to establish "social protection rights". Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere affirmed this intention in an interview with the Bonn newspaper "DIE WELT", published today. At the same time de Maiziere announced "considerable reservations" with regard to the roundtable's draft constitution. In his view, a catalogue of basic rights is devalued if rights such as the right to work, are not included as individual rights.

The prime minister said that in an economic union, too, there should be thorough consideration of "limiting for a certain period of time the possibility for certain goods, including agricultural goods, of fully pervading our market". In particular he deemed areas related to Soviet export as needing protection. At issue here is a foreign trade turnover of 32 billion [currency got given], which also creates the proceeds for the GDR imports of oil, and raw materials.

In Lothar de Maiziere's view, there should be a swift amnesty for persons who were accused of electoral deceit during the local elections last year. "The elections were conducted like that for 40 years", he said in justification of his stance in the DIE WELT interview. On the subject of the proceedings against former high-ranking state officials such as Honecker, Mittag, and Mielke, the GDR government leader said that these should not take on the nature of revenege. There should be close examination of "whether those affected are still able to stand trial". [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Romberg on Unification, Economy

LD2304100490 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0735 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Finance Minister Dr. Walter Romberg has advocated differing periods of structural adaptation for the GDR economy during economic and monetary union. Citing the Spanish and Portuguese entry into the EC, he told ADN that some industries need periods of adaptation while other branches could be competitive relatively quickly.

Romberg believes that about 30 percent of industrial concerns could face world market conditions shortly. For 50 percent this is only possible gradually and with an injection of foreign capital. For the purpose of saving jobs, these enterprises should be granted state aid for structural adaptation. For the remaining 20 percent, there is little point in investing money which would be better used for retraining. A considerable number of experts from the finance and economics ministries is currently assessing the competitiveness of industrial enterprises so that more precise details will be available by the start of May, which will allow more exact prognoses to be made.

Romberg described a one to one exchange of savings over differing periods as essential for monetary union. Special arrangements for pensioners are conceivable. Regarding wages, he pointed to the difference in levels compared to the Federal Republic. If there is an increase in the discrepancy, emigration could reach a high level, which is in the interest neither of the GDR nor of the Federal Republic. Solutions must be found which are socially acceptable for the population. Regarding the exchange rates for industry and agriculture, Dr. Romberg advocated a varied approach, taking account of the respective situation.

Although there is no confirmed state budget and although planned revenues are not being paid in to the full extent, the GDR is not on the verge of bankruptcy but is viable. A good deal must be done to promote the sale of GDR products. For the domestic market the exclusive interest in western products, though understandable, is damaging. Jobs are endangered, Romberg said.

Interior Minister Diestel on Stasi Files

AU2104180190 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 21 Apr 90 p 8

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel by Peter Schmalz; place and date not given: "Minister Diestel: I Have Pledged To Slash Stasi Structures"]

[Text] GDR Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel announced in an interview with DIE WELT that he will prevent the files of the Stasi state security system from becoming a problem in the construction of the democratic system.

[Schmalz] In today's debate on the government statement, SPD [Social Democratic Party] deputy Thierse warned against the danger that you might cover up the Stasi past.

[Diestel] He did not use the words cover up. He literally accused me of wanting to destroy the files.

[Schmalz] Do you want to destroy them?

[Diestel] I do not want the files to become a problem in the construction of our democratic system. In my capacity as interior minister, I will seek a solution that safeguards the interests of individuals regarding the protection of their personal data, but which also allows a reappraisal of the past.

[Schmalz] So, it is not true that you are not interested in this issue, as has been claimed by the citizens' committee?

[Diestel] This is not at all true. However, we have a democratically legitimized government that was installed by a democratically elected parliament, and I received the mandate from this government to solve this problem in the interests of the whole society. This excludes the uncontrolled handling of this criminal potential. The citizens' committees were needed because there was no democratically legitimized government until recently. Now the government deals with this problem.

[Schmalz] Does this mean that you want to involve the citizens' committees?

[Diestel] I want to consult them. However, a decision on whether these files will be destroyed or archived must be made by the government committee, which will be guided by the parliament's task.

[Schmalz] Thus, you do not think that the accusation that you are acting arbitrarily is justified?

[Diestel] One cannot speak of arbitrariness here, because I will act on behalf of the prime minister and the People's Chamber.

[Schmalz] Do you proceed from the assumption that part of the files will be used for trials?

[Diestel] I proceed from the assumption that it is justified to seek rehabilitation. Files may be useful here, but not necessarily. A decision will have to be made as to whether they are admissible as evidence because they are products of evil, products of the devil.

[Schmalz] Chancellor Kohl stated recently that criminal offenses must be punished.

[Diestel] You are quite right. There is no doubt that criminal offenses must be punished.

[Schmalz] So we need not be afraid that you will destroy the files?

[Diestel] Quite the contrary. I am a conservative politician, and I belong to a parliamentary group whose members were certainly not involved in Stasi activities. As interior minister, I have pledged to finally slash structures that might still exist and to prevent the establishment of such a system for all time.

[Schmalz] Can you tackle this task completely free of guilt?

[Diestel] Yes, I can. However, if you mention the topic of guilt, I must tell you that there are only two groups of people who were completely innocent in this system: newborn babies and chronic alcoholics.

Diestel Rejects Stasi Files Destruction

LD2304082190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0733 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Dr. Peter-Michael Diestel, deputy premier and interior minister, is not contemplating the destruction of the Stasi files. He said at an international news conference in Berlin this morning that files had been opened on about 6 million GDR citizens and 2 million federal citizens by the former State Security Ministry. Every democrat in this country would gladly be rid of these files, but this is not possible because they are necessary for rehabilitation and for further investigation.

Asked about the citizens' committees, Diestel said that they had done outstanding work, which was recognized accordingly. Diestel said these committees should continue to be involved in decision-making in the problem of overcoming the Stasi. However, the actual decisions will be made by the government. The parliamentary investigating committee is to gain advisory functions. An "emasculation of the citizens' committees" is not envisaged. New ways of overcoming the Stasi will be acted upon by the De Maiziere government, the interior minister said.

Diestel on Border Crossings, Interior Ministry

LD2304090390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0752 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Interior Minister Diestel announced at a press conference in Berlin this morning that he is assuming that by the middle or end of June the border will be transversable using just identity papers and without passport control. In this connection he pointed out that tearing down the wall would involve considerable expenditure, which must be seen in the GDR's current economic context.

Diestel came out against dismissing leading Democratic Socialism Party members from the Interior Ministry. Professional conmpetence is the sole decisive factor. He noted that a process of rethinking has been taking place in the Interior Ministry since November.

Emigration Figures to FRG Detailed

LD2304090590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0802 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The number of resettlers from the GDR was up last week. Between 16 and 22 April a total of 4,306 GDR citizens came to the Federal Republic, a spokesman for the Bonn Interior Ministry announced today. In the week prior to Easter the figure was just 3,328. However, the figure is slightly down compared to the weeks before that. Between 2 and 8 April 4,546 and between 26 March and 1 April 4,943 resettlers were registered.

Since the start of the year a total of 167,093 GDR citizens have come to the Federal Republic.

GDR, FRG Labor Ministers Issue Statement

LD1904183890 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1048 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The SPD [Social Democratic Party] Press Office today conveyed the following joint press statement on the meeting between the ministers, Dr. Regine Hildebrandt and Dr. Norbert Bluem:

The GDR minister of labor and social affairs, Dr. Regine Hildebrandt, and Federal Minister Dr. Norbert Bluem held their first extensive exchange of opinions on the coming social union and agreed on the focus of their future joint work on 18 April 1990. They both regard the social community as an indispensable and integral component of the economic and monetary community and have agreed on close and trusting cooperation on all issues connected with this.

It was specifically agreed:

1. Qualified employees of the Federal Ministry will shortly be made available to advise and support current ministerial work in the GDR.
2. The building-up of the modern promotion of employment (unemployment insurance and an active policy on the labor market) is viewed as an urgent necessity. Tutors are suggested to give organizational support, training, and advice to employees for all labor exchanges planned in the GDR.
3. The training of the work force must be the cornerstone of an active policy on the labor market. There will shortly be a congress on this in Berlin, open to anyone interested, which will set out the opportunities for, the practice and the areas of application of training (retraining, continuing and further training). The partners agreed on a joint committee to coordinate activities in the area of training and promote specific model instructions. The laws on the promotion of employment, which are to be newly created, are to create prerequisites for the work of West German educational institutes to have positive effects directly and quickly in the GDR. Above and beyond this the partners expect that West German industry will make a substantial contribution to equipping the training institutions with the most modern equipment on the spot.

Third Session of People's Chamber Ends

LD1904130390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1039 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The third session of the newly-elected GDR People's Chamber has ended after some two and a half hours. Just after 1230 [1130 GMT] Dr. Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, president of the People's Chamber, closed the session, referring to the fourth session, which will start tomorrow at 0900 with the debate on Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's government statement.

In the discussion of the draft constitution presented by the roundtable, representatives of all parliamentary groups took the floor and expressed differning opinions about the reasoning behind a new constitution considering the imminent unification of the two German states and the contents of the draft constitution.

Fourth People's Chamber Session Opens

LD2004115990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0806 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [Text] Berlin (ADN)—The fourth session of the People's Chamber was opened by the president of the parliament, Dr. Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, at 0900 in Berlin today. On the agenda is the debate on the government statement which Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere gave yesterday. Before this the parliamentary groups will have the opportunity to comment on a motion by the Alliance 90/Greens group on the safeguarding of the proper conducting of the local elections on 6 May. [passage omitted]

Groups Debate De Maiziere Statement

LD2004120790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0755 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—The start of the debate today showed widespread agreement of all People's Chamber groups with the most important aspects of Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's government statement. The debate on yesterday's statement by the new prime minister is the only item on today's agenda.

The first to speak, for the DBD/DFD [Democratic Peasants Party/Democratic Women's League] parliamentary group, was the group's chairman, Dr. Guenther Maleuda, who endorsed the idea of going into German unity "with head held high." He said that the deputies he represents would contribute their special abilities in a constructive but critical manner to the solution of the existing tasks. In his view the government statement lacks specific details about GDR agriculture, which because of the announced inclusion in the EC agricultural market must be widely safeguarded.

Marianne Birthler of Alliance 90/Greens thanked Lothar de Maiziere for the government statement, which showed level-headedness and the awareness that the country's problems are interwoven with those of Europe and the world. Lacking, however, is an appeal to the federal government to keep the promises made before the People's Chamber election. She urged the FRG government to take the GDR government seriously as an equal partner in future negotiations. She spoke in favor of definitely allowing the citizens' committee for the dissolution of the State Security Service to continue to function.

For the Liberals, parliamentary group leader Prof. Dr. Rainer Ortleb called for a unification of the two German states on a treaty basis and rejected mere annexation. In his opinion there should within the framework of the economic, monetary and social union also be a decision on a common German state citizenship. Legal regulations of a constitutionally valid nature as a basic law for day to day behavior are an urgent necessity. There is not time for a completely new constitution. He utterly rejected the trade union law, because it had been drafted in accordance with the old socialist pattern. Mergers with FRG concerns must on no account take place at the expense of GDR small and medium-sized firms. [passage omitted]

Prof. Hansjoachim Walther, speaking for the DSU [German Social Union], fiercly attacked the previous Modrow government. It contributed not to the stability but to the instability of the country, and was neither impartial nor democratic. His accusations against the former SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] ranged from the forced expropriation of war criminals after 1945 used by the "SED communists" as an excuse to get hold of their property to the actions of the Stasi [State Security Service] commissioned by the SED and the failed education and cadre policy. Walther demanded an immediate program for the socially weak and he spoke in favor of subsequently adopting a reform of the penal system into the government program.

Dr. Gregor Gysi, head of the PDS [Party of Democratic Socialism] parliamentary group, criticized the fact that the speaking time for the largest opposition party was confined to 15 minutes. In this respect the Bundestag could be taken as an example. Gysi stressed that his parliamentary group welcomed many parts of the government statement and that, also in future, it would not hesitate, when it agrees with the government, to show this openly. He stressed that the PDS is prepared to face history, the antifascist traditions as well as Stalinism. He spoke against a shift in the balance of power between East and West and advocated the abolition of national conscription before the end of 1990. In his speech he outlined steps that could pave the way to German unity without it becoming an accession of the GDR to the FRG. The quality of the unification process is decisive.

Wolfgang Thierse, speaking for the SPD [Social Democratic Party] parliamentary group, began by making clear that there is still disagreement within his party about its taking part in the government. However, they would not stop the argument or focibly stop the discussion. The SPD would still be recognized in the grand coalition as a left-wing popular party in the new tradition of autumn 1989. It joined the government in order to represent with confidence and tenacity the interest of the people. For him Article 23 of the FRG Basic Law is the most realistic way to German unity. The memory of the Stasi past must not be supressed. A joint effort will be needed to find a procedure based on the rule of law, with which a terror system could be smashed entirely. In connection with this he accused the PDS of behaving like a "party of merry innocence and determined amnesia."

Krause Addresses Session

LD2004130390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0855 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—"No more socialist experiments". This was one of the demands made by CDU/DA [Christian Democratic Union/Democratic Awakening] spokesman Dr. Guenther Krause. The leader of the parliamentary group listed a number of mistakes of the old SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] regime, ranging from excessive celebrations, the personality cult and the order to shoot [at the border] to misinformation and lies about a socialist nation. He called for the rapid abolition of the GDR emblem, 7 October as a national holiday, and the GDR license plates. The CDU/DA will keep its promise to its voters to speedily shape the process of democratic renewal and the road to German unity. The CDU stands for the motto "We are one people". There was and is only one German nation, and this determines his party's policy, the parliamentary group leader said. His party attaches special value to the preservation of creation, and therefore environmental protection is a definite state goal.

With this all parliamentary groups had their allotted 15 minutes of speaking time. After a break the debate will continue with short speeches by members of all parliamentary groups.

Deputies Address Session

LD2004135590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1127 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Parents should be able to have a say as to how their childrens' future schools will look. This was urged by Dr. Konrad Elmer of the SPD [Social Democratic Party]. He said a comprehensive school would provide the best preconditions for guaranteeing pupils equality of opportunity. After preferential treatment for children with the right political orientation there must not now be privileges for children for certain socio-economic strata.

Vera Wollenberger of the Alliance 90/Greens parliamentary group demanded a new energy policy and a national energy-saving program. She posed the question as to how the government would in future deal with citizens' initiatives against nuclear power. The military budget should be halved and the money should be used for environmental protection. The strength of the NVA [National People's Army] should in future amount to fewer than 100,000 men, which could be achieved by scrapping conscription. Vera Wollenberger called on the prime minister to specifically comment on alliance membership—NATO or the Warsaw Pact.

The People's Chamber groups have the joint responsibility of allowing all strata of the population to embark on German unity in a dignified manner. Unity requires time for sensible reflection, said Prof. Uwe-Jens Heuer of the PDS [Party of Democratic Socialism]. He spoke in favour of drafting protective mechanisms to curb the power of capital. The state treaty, which he so far only heard about from the TAGESZEITUNG, must be carefully examined by the People's Chamber.

Reiner Krziskewitz of the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] parliamentary group supported remarks in the government statement on economic, monetary, and social union. He demanded the imminent drafting of a new finance constitution in order to strengthen confidence in the social market economy. In exchange regulations he is in favor of allowing pensioners quick access to savings.

The coalition government will have to be judged by specific actions, said Hans-Joachim Hacker of the SPD. He said the first touchstone could be the inclusion of citizens' committees on the dissolution of the Stasi [State Security Service]. Their rich experience and expertise must be utilized. Coming to terms with the past must be made public and not be swept under the carpet. The struggle against the dictatorship had been won; now democracy must become visible.

The PDS walked out of the hall when Joachim Hubertus Nowack, DSU [German Social Union], accused the party of failing to draw any consequences from German history. He directed strong attacks against the PDS and compared 40 years of GDR history with the use of force during the time of the Third Reich. An apology for the 40 years of failed policy to the people is not enough, as otherwise perhaps a three-fold apology from Herr Goebbels would have been enough and everything would have been forgotten.

The blame for the failed domestic policy of the GDR is borne by the old SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] alone, CDU deputy DR Hans-Joachim von Essen said. Whoever bears the responsibility must also be made to pay, according to the principle: the culprit pays. He therefore favors a part of the damage caused being compensated for by the old SED.

Klaus Hoepcke of the PDS strongly backed the creation of a new European security structure. He demanded initially the halving of European armaments and the scrapping of all nuclear weapons on the continent. He also supported the idea of the government statement for the creation of a European Germany.

Session Ends

LD2004130890 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1146 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The first task of the Disarmament and Defense Ministry must be to reduce the National People's Army [NVA] and structure it in a strictly defensive manner, said Dr. Bertram Wieczorek of the CDU [Christian Democratic Union]. The NVA must be embedded more in the European disarmament process.

Both German armies should work toward scrapping old images of the enemy. In the process of unification the interests of the Germans must be brought into line with the interests of the other peoples of Europe. Stability in Europe must not be thrown out of joint.

As the last speaker in the debate, Dr Hans-Juergen Misselwitz of the SPD [Social Democratic Party] group again underlined that it is his party's highest priority to integrate German unification in the European process. He urged "getting out of" the alliances, and that this should be campaigned for in parliament. The GDR's annexation with the FRG under Article 23 of the FRG basic law was not favored by his party, but it accepts it. However, there must be no sneaking out of European responsibility.

The People's Chamber session ended at around 1335. The prime minister and government members will use the next session on Thursday to deal with questions arising out of the debate on the government statement by Lothar de Maiziere.

Defense Minister Eppelman on 2 Armies Possibility

LD2204090190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0746 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The new Disarmament and Defense Minister Rainer Eppelmann has spoken in favor of retaining universal 12-month-long conscription in the GDR. It is "a piece of democracy", Eppelmann said today on South West German Radio. He also considered it possible that two separate Armies might exist in a united Germany. He stated that troops of the Western allies could remain on the territory of the Federal Republic and Soviet soldiers on that of the GDR "in greatly reduced contingents". Above and beyond this, he announced "unilateral and sensible steps" in the area of disarmament. His aim is an "NVA [National People's Army] which is no longer capable of waging war". The GDR will, however, stand by exisitng treaties and alliance obligations to the Warsaw Pact.

Paper Reveals Possible Army 'Conspiracy'

LD2304115190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0205 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—According to the newspaper JUNGE WELT, a group of colonels in the National People's Army (NVA), including one from the ministry itself, a few weeks ago made an offer to FRG Defense Minister Stoltenberg to wind up the GDR Armed Forces. Under the headline "Conspiracy in the NVA?" the paper reports on the contents of a copy of the letter from the NVA officers to Stoltenberg which is in its possession.

The reason for the letter was an alleged danger to national unity deriving from NVA command conditions. According to JUNGE WELT, a plan was submitted to the defense minister in the letter, which was divided into three points: first, immediate dissolution of the NVA; second, securing NVA sites and weapon systems for takeover by the future federal Army; and third, organizing preparations for a possible stationing of the Bundeswehr on the former territory of the GDR. The recipient of the letter is offered the active cooperation of the group, which represents only the tip of an iceberg.

"Whether this recent offer should be seen as conspiracy and treason is difficult to say", JUNGE WELT writes. [passage omitted]

Democratic Awakening Elects Eppelmann Chairman

LD2204161690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1419 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Schwerin (ADN)—Rainer Eppelmann, until now acting chairman of the Democratic Awakening (DA), was elected as the new chairman this afternoon at the extraordinary party congress in Schwerin. A total of 162 delegates voted for and two voted against Eppelmann, who is representing the Democratic Awakening in the new GDR Government as disarmament and defense minister. [passage omitted]

Democratic Awakening Deletes References to GDR

LD2204134690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1255 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Schwerin (ADN)—The delegates of the special Democratic Awakening [DA] congress decided to delete all passages referring to GDR territory and its Constitution from the party statute. The delegates endorsed this change to the statute with one abstention and no opposing votes in Schwerin today. After unification, Democratic Awakening wants to campaign throughout Germany. DA currently has around 10,000 active members in the GDR, who have been organized in local, district, and regional associations.

Dieter Beyer Elected DA General Secretary

LD2204213590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1738 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Schwerin (ADN)—Rainer Eppelmann, hitherto acting chairman of Democratic Awakening [DA], was elected this afternoon as the new chairman at the special party congress in Schwerin. [passage omitted]

Dieter Beyer from Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz) was elected as the new general secretary. The DA general secretary to date, Oswald Wutzke, is to become state secretary in the Economic Cooperation Ministry, under Minister Ebeling (DSU) [German Social Union], it was said at the party congress. [passage omitted]

Former Chamber Chief Sindermann Dies

LD2104094990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0906 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Horst Sindermann, former GDR People's Chamber president, died in Berlin yesterday afternoon. This was confirmed to ADN by his family today in response to questioning.

It was reported that he suffered a heart attack. Sindermann, who was member of the former Socialist Unity Party of Germany Politburo an deputy chairman of the State Council until November 1989, would have been 75 years old in September.

Increase in Savings; Money Circulation Decline

AU2004110290 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19 Apr 90 p 3

[ADN report: "More Savings Deposits, Fewer Notes and Coins in Circulation"]

[Text] East Berlin—The population of the GDR had deposited savings worth 162.4 billion marks [M] in the country's banks by the end of March. As the State Bank told ADN on Wednesday [18 April], this is an increase of M2.7 billion from the beginning of the year. In the first quarter of 1989, savings deposits rose by M5.3 billion. Notes and coins in circulation among the population, enterprises, and organizations amounted to M13.5 billion by the end of March. This is a decline of M3.5 billion from the beginning of the year.

East Berliners Protest FRG Abortion Law

LD2204160490 Hamburg DPA in German 1430 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpts] East Berlin (DPA)—Around 1,000 GDR citizens—mainly women—demonstrated in East Berlin this afternoon against the introduction of the Federal German Paragraph 218 [abortion law]. If the two German states unified via Article 23 of the Basic Law, it must be insured that the right to abortion is not restricted, it was said. Abortion up until the 12th week has been legal in the GDR since 1972. [passage omitted]

The demonstration, in which Wolfgang Ullmann, [Alliance '90] president and former minister without portfolio, took part, was called by the former working circle on equality of the East Berlin Roundtable. [passage omitted]

E. Europe, China Civil Rights Forum Founded

LD2204172390 Hamburg DPA in German 1629 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (DPA)—A forum of 17 citizens' movements from Central and East Europe and from China has been set up in East Berlin today. The "Interforum for Democracy and Human Rights" sees itself as a loose association for the exchange of experiences of successful and failed democracy movements and of solutions to problems involved in the shaping of new societies.

Through this newly created organization, the citizens' movements aim jointly to back, among other things, the right of peoples to self-determination and the safeguarding of the rights of national minorities. The founding of this forum was the main concern of a three-day conference that began yesterday, to which the Chinese opposition movement Federation for a Democratic China (FDC) and—from the GDR—New Forum, Democracy Now, and the Peace and Human Rights Initiative, issued invitations. [passage omitted]

Former Spy Markus Wolf Found Near Berlin

LD2304073490 Hamburg DPA in German 0306 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Cologne (DPA)—Some two months after his secret disappearance from the GDR, former GDR intelligence chief Markus Wolf has been tracked down in the vicinity of East Berlin. Wolf told the Cologne daily newspaper EXPRESS (today's edition) that he had first of all hidden in Moscow. Wolf added that he wanted to go to the Federal Republic before the end of the war.

Wolf, who is being prosecuted in the Federal Republic for intelligence service activities, appealed to the Chief Federal Prosecutor's office to lift the warrant for his arrest. This, he said, is "necessary in the interests of an internal peace on the path to a united Germany." The existing GDR law, according to which Wolf is not punishable, should also be recognized by the Federal Republic.

A statement on Wolf's comments by Chief Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann, published by the EXPRESS, indicates that he is "legally bound to prosecute the criminal activities undertaken by Wolf." And he will fulfill this duty by arresting him. Rebmann cited the grounds of "serious criminal activities against the external security of the Federal Republic." Rebmann said that Wolf is trying by this means "to avoid his personal responsibility."

This article was pre-released to DPA.

Technical Error Triggers Air-to-Ground Missiles

LD2304100990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0906 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Demmin (ADN)—The technical failure of a generating set triggered off two air-to-ground missiles of the western group of the USSR Armed Forces at Tutow airfield on 12 April, Demmin district. The commanding officer of the military airfield announced this at a meeting convened by the Tutow citizens' committee. He also reported that there were no nuclear weapons at the airfield, but only test missiles. The aircraft are now to be examined and all low flying is to be halted. [passage omitted]

Two missiles were triggered during the start-up preparations of a Su-25 low-level attack aircraft. One missile exploded on the airfield, and the other damaged five silos of the drying plant of the Demmin grain cultivation state enterprises's Tutow storage area. No one was injured.

Romberg Meets With FRG's Economics Minister

LD1904173790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1658 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Talks between Federal Economics Minister Dr. Helmut Haussman and GDR Finance Minister Dr. Walter Romberg in Berlin today centered on tasks for the forthcoming monetary and economic union and the social union between the two states. Minister Romberg said after the meeting that they also discussed the GDR's economic development, investment possibilities, regional promotion, and structural adjustment of industry. Details had not been discussed, rather it was an exploratory talk in which basic issues were also addressed.

Federal Minister Haussmann included in these basic issues the creation of jobs in small- and medium-sized enterprises through the relevant shaping of investment conditions. The joint competence of the finance and economics ministers applies in the case of competition. The two sides agreed to work closely together in competition issues related to insurance companies and banks in the sphere of large industry. They also agreed that social reconstruction measures are urgently required in the transition to the market economy.

After this meeting, Federal Economics Minister Haussmann met the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] chairman, Professor Dr Rainer Ortleb, in the House of the League of Free Democrats in Berlin. He had come to Berlin to establish contact with the two ministers with whom he will be working most in the future, the FDP [Free Democratic Party] politician stated. He was pleased to use the opportunity to visit the LDP chairman.

Economics Minister Pohl on Talks With Haussmann

AU1904192390 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1700 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Report on meeting between GDR Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl and his FRG counterpart Helmut Haussmann by Michael Schmitz in Bonn on 19 April]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Gerhard Pohl wants to promote private investments by means of a law of establishment, which permits FRG companies to purchase land and buildings. Said Pohl to ZDF:

[Begin Pohl recording] We have agreed that one of our first measures will be to ensure the right of establishment in our country, together with a number of other accompanying laws, which permit FRG companies, and also banks, to establish offices here, to build production facilities—as subsidiaries, for instance—or to found new companies. [end recording]

New opportunities, but the market economy will put great competitive pressure on many GDR companies.

[Begin recording] [Pohl] Well, frankly I have to say that this is the big problem. I also see certain branches and sectors, which were highly praised under the old regime, and which now give me the fiercest headache.

[Schmitz] The chemical industry?

[Pohl] Microelectronics, too, for instance. The only way I see is that, together with groups of big companies, either from the FRG or bigger groups, we find a joint path that we can follow—mergers, for instance, or also the founding of certain joint companies, etc. [end recording]

The monetary union has to be prepared and accompanied by such reforms, Pohl said.

Pohl Rules Out Immediate CEMA Withdrawal

LD2104090290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0135 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The GDR will not perform the formal act of withdrawal from CEMA. It wants first to hear the ideas of the other states, especially the Soviet Union, at that body's executive session which takes place next Tuesday. This statement was made by GDR Economics Minister Dr. Gerhard Pohl (Christian Democratic Union) in the Saturday edition of the GDR newspaper NEUE ZEIT. CEMA's prospects will certainly not be such "that we shall be giving major, substantial consideration to its expansion." Our aim is clearly to shape all laws in a manner compatible with the EC. The GDR's contractual commitments are to be kept to and even, where necessary, expanded, in the spirit of stabilizing Gorbachev's reform process.

The essential tasks required to help the GDR's economy to get back onto its feet, Pohl said, include the establishment of the necessary legal framework conditions for the economic community with the Federal Republic and the structural reorganization of the economics ministry. The principles of plan methodology still being used in many places must be "put to sleep." The social market economy has to be able to develop for this.

Eppelmann Meets Pact's Lushev, Snetkov

LD2004164590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1520 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Strausberg (ADN)—Treaty obligations to allies in the Warsaw Pact are to be kept, and not unilaterally rescinded. Disarmament and Defense Minister Rainer Eppelmann reaffirmed this at a meeting in Strausberg this afternoon with Army General Petr Lushev, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member-states.

Eppelmann expressed the opinion that military and alliance issues were of particular significance in the process of German unification. One of the highest-priority tasks was to take into account the legitimate interests of the Soviet Union and neighbors to the East. Pointing to the government statement, he added that in the case of all steps it was a matter of taking neighbors' security interests into account and of contributing to security in Europe.

Minister Eppelmann pointed out the great significance of the two-plus-four talks within the context of the process of the unification of the two German states.

He stressed to his interlocutor that until the creation of a pan-European security alliance, there will be no extension of NATO's military presence to the territory between the Elbe and the Oder, even in a united Germany that might be a NATO member. In this context, Minister Eppelmann described the CSCE process as the most important level for overcoming the division of Europe into different political and military alliances.

On behalf of the Soviet Defense Minister Army Gen. Lushev invited Minister Eppelmann to take part in the Victory Day celebrations in Moscow on 9 May. Minister Eppelmann gratefully accepted the invitation.

Taking part in the meeting were State Secretary Werner Ablass, Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Bertram Wieczorek, State Secretary for Disarmament Frank Marczinek, as well as Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, head of the National People's Army. After the meeting with Army Gen. Lushev, Minister Eppelmann had an exchange of opinions with Army Gen. Boris Snetkov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Soviet Forces.

Discusses Warsaw Pact Change

LD2004191690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1701 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Strausberg (ADN)—The commander in chief of the combined forces of the member states of the Warsaw Pact, Army General Petr Lushev, speaking to the press today, assessed his more than hour-long talks with the GDR's Defence and Disarmament Minister Rainer Eppelmann, as a constructive exchange of opinions on the current situation on prospects for the forces of both countries, and on their cooperation within the Warsaw Pact as a whole. Issues concerning the NATO membership of a united Germany had only been dealt with in a general way. The political leadership of both states had the prerogative on this subject. They also had to wait for the meetings within the framework of the two-plus-four negotiations. Above and beyond this they discussed a series of other issues of common interest.

Lushev said it was difficult at the present moment to give prognoses on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Germany in the forseeable future. That, too, was more of a decision for the political leadership, and had to be discussed at the meeting of heads of state and government. However, it was clear that there was the certain prospect of a reduction in this area too, the commander in chief said.

According to Rainer Eppelmann, the parties had affirmed with satisfaction that the framework of the Warsaw Pact was in the process of shifting its emphasis. The political mandate was becoming stronger and stronger. As a factor promoting peace in Europe, the GDR also wanted to remain a reliable factor, and for this reason was standing by the obligations it had entered into, the minister said in this context. When political and military circumstances had changed—they had agreed on this—treaties would also have to be discussed and negotiated; however, in that event, jointly. At the moment, Rainer Eppelmann could only imagine one treaty he would revoke or break, one whereby the GDR was to supply crisis regions or regions at war. The minister stressed that they had had friendly and open talks with one another.

NVA [People's Army] Admiral Theodor Hoffmann said, on the fringes of the meeting between Minister Epplemann and Army Gen. Lushev, that in future the NVA would have an important task to fulfill within the pan-European framework. However, he assumed that it would not become a part of NATO. The People's Army could be a very good bridge between the two military pact systems. He added that the Bundeswehr could also take on such a function. A very important contribution could thereby be made to the disbandment of the military alliance and to the creation of a pan-European security system on the basis of the CSCE process.

Delegation's Entry Into Lithuania Blocked

LD2104205890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Report by Moscow Reporter Gabor Izbeki]

[Text] Let us turn to the Sajudis Congress, to which several Hungarian parliamentary parties have sent, or to be more exact, would like to have sent delegations. We know about the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Federation of Young Democrats [Fidesz]. Viktor Orban, leader of the Fidesz delegation, told our Moscow reporter Gabor Izbeki how he did not get to Lithuania: [Begin recording] [Orban] The Fidesz parliamentary faction received an invitation from the Sajudis people's front movement to take part in this weekend's Sajudis congress. In accordance with this, we announced our intention to do this at the Soviet Embassy in Hungary, and we asked to be informed in writing if we could go. We were informed that we could go, but that they were not the ones to issue the permit relating to this. Since we would be there as the delegation of an official parliamentary faction—as a consequence we have the right to travel—we would have to have our letter of invitation endorsed by the leading official of the National Assembly. This was done, so our papers were in order.

In Moscow, when we arrived at Sheremetevo Airport, border guards first of all wanted to put us unceremoniously back on the plane. We did not give way, and said we would be willing to return only if they set it out in writing that we are being expelled from the territory of the Soviet Union. This they were not willing to do.

After this, by virtue of the mediation of Malev [Hungarian airlines] officials, we were able to get in touch with the ambassador, and the ambasador was able to get an official reply to the effect that since a presidential decree bans entry into Lithuania's territory, we may by no means travel there. However, as guests of the embassy, we may stay here for one day if the ambassador undertakes that we will not travel on to Lithuania's territory.

[Izbeki] Did the Soviet side say anything else in connection with the refusal? In other words, does this refusal apply to the FIDESZ delegation, or did they say that one can not go to Vilnius now at all?

[Orban] The Soviet side officialy informed us that entry has been prohibited by presidential decree. The personal effect of the presidential decree extends to every delegation. They particularly asked that we not regard this measure as an unfriendly step aimed against Hungary because they are not allowing any delegation of any nation into Lithuania. [end recording]

Soviet Troop Withdrawal To Accelerate

LD2004193890 Budapest MTI in English 1830 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20 (MTI)—The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, progressing so far according to original schedule, is to be speeded up, it was reported on Friday by Colonel General Matvei Burlakhov, commander of the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in Hungary, who was speaking in Esztergom (N Hungary). Experience gained so far support the view that under given circumstances the withdrawal could be accelerated without jeopardizing security.

This major announcement was made at the international press conference held in Esztergom on the occasion that the last of the vehicles of the armoured car troops stationed in the city has been loaded onto the train and left for the USSR. The armoured car troops stationed in Esztergom had been the largest of its kind in Hungary.

At the briefing the colonel general also reported that so far 31 Soviet military trains have left Hungarian territory, and an additional four trains are on their way to the Soviet border during the briefing. A total of 2,500 Soviet citizens—soldiers and members of their family, including civilian employees—have also returned home. In addition 900 various artillery equipment and 40,000 tonnes of other material was shipped out of the country. Transportation has been progressing smoothly so far, thanks to the helpfulness of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence and the Hungarian State Railways.

The Southern Army Group will continue to do everything in its capacity in order to complete the Soviet troop withdrawals by June, 1991, in accordance with the treaties signed.

Troop Withdrawal Commissioner on Military Property

LD2104205390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1400 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Report on interview with Major General Antal Annus, Hungarian Government commissioner for Soviet troop withdrawal affairs, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excepts] Today's MAGYAR HIRLAP carries an exchange of letters between Colonel General Matvei Burlakov, commander of the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in Hungary, and Maj. Gen. Annus, the Hungarian Government commissioner for Soviet troop withdrawal affairs, regarding the basis of accounting for the vacated military properties; in other words, who owes how much to whom. I asked Antal Annus about the details of the Hungarian standpoint.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How is it that investments amounting to billions have been taking place in this country, and that only the Soviets have data, precise data, about these investments?

[Annus] From 1957 onwards we have precise documents in the archives with regard to the question of who undertook a financial share in the investments that were realized according to the regulations, where and in what proportion; in other words, how much the Soviet and Hungarian sides invested. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] It is reassuring that after 1956 we have these data at our disposal. What can be the reason why the Hungarian Government does not possess appropriate documents between 1945 and 1956?

[Annus] Up to 1948 there was a totally peculiar situation, unregulated, with regard to agreements. Practically anything was allowed to happen in this period. In 1948 an agreement was concluded, in which the government of the Hungarian Republic leased out to the Soviet troops stationed here those barracks, airports, shooting ranges, other buildings, and real estate which at that time were being used by them. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So, in 1948 an agreement came into being?

[Annus] In this, the Hungarian Republic leased out to the Soviet troops the real estate, the buildings, which were then occupied by them, and what is more, as laid down in the agreement, all their installations as well.

[Reporter] So, Hungary had the right of ownership?

[Annus] Yes.

[Reporter] Does the Soviet side dispute this?

[Annus] In a certain sense, yes, because they have developed the opinion that what they invested is in effect their property. What we say, on the other hand, as the law formulates it, is that the building bears the fate of the plot—I may not be quoting this precisely. Based on this, the lawyers say that if the value of the buildings exceeds the plot, in that case this means enrichment for the Hungarian side, so it owes appropriate compensation to the Soviet side.

[Reporter] I still do not understand quite clearly why the documents after 1948 are only in the Soviet Union's possession.

[Annus] I did not say that they are only in their possession. The point is that the 1948 agreement itself laid down that the register of the buildings leased out to them—I am quoting almost verbatim—was to be kept at the Soviet Army Command. Here I would like to say that this leasing out did not occur in the context of a regular hand-over, taking-over. And this happened in a similar manner later on, as well.

[Reporter] In other words, they said that henceforth they were in those places as lessees.

[Annus] That is precisely it. And that is why we do not possess registers of hand-over, inventories.

[Reporter] Yesterday you received a letter from the Soviet Government commissioner, who is at the same time the commander of the Southern Army Group. His name is Col. Gen. Matvei Burlakov. It runs to over four pages. We have it here before us. You have made notes on certain parts of this letter. [passage omitted] There is a phrase here, for example, to the effect that it is somewhat incomprehensible for the Soviets that in an earlier interview you chose, and I quote, to revise several terms of the agreement concluded on 1 April 1958. So then we have to say in passing that on 11 April 1958 a new agreement came into being. What was it about?

[Annus] This agreement laid down that in the case of the barracks, airports, shooting ranges, and other real estate leased to the Soviet troops, by way of a rental fee, they must carry out the maintenance and renovation of the buildings taken over by them for their own use [word indistinct]. [passage omitted] I did not revise the terms; I did not strive to do so then and I am not striving to do so now. That is not the point. The point is that if, on account of the maintenance or the renovation not having been carried out, a building leased to them and used by them has deteriorated to a greater extent than one would expect, then in our view the costs of this must not be place on the shoulders of the Hungarian people. Responsibility for this belongs to the one who did not carry out the maintenance, the renovation.

[Reporter] But this is a rather lenient interpretation, I think, because one could defend oneself by saying: I have painted the walls three times, I think I have done everything in order for this building to get into or to remain in an adequate condition.

[Annus] Our experts have worked out the correct, reliable technology of this, which as a matter of fact constitutes the professional basis of the standpoints. Its essence is that the experts take as the starting point the average—today's average—technical condition of the stock of buildings in the management of the Hungarian Army.

[Reporter] In other words, we say that they should have been as careful as we were with our own installations, buildings etc.

[Annus] That is precisely it. This was our stance earlier on as well.

[Reporter] Did they agree with this?

[Annus] No. They did not agree with it. At present the experts are also discussing this issue. It will come on the agenda of Monday's joint session as well. Now the opinions differ.

[Reporter] If the negotiating sides did not agree, earlier either, in the judgement of this issue, then I am bound to think that this letter of over four pages came about for political reasons. And I think that this supposition of mine is not too far from the reality, since other parts of the letter contain an allusion to this. In other words, when Burlakov speaks about the liberating maneuvers of the Soviet troops and allies, and that there appeared in the Hungarian press several articles whose aim was to present the Soviet troops in a hostile light, then I think that there is some truth in what I say. Do you agree with me?

[Annus] The way I see it—and many of us think like this—is that the Hungarian Republic's fundamental interest is that the good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Hungary should be, so to speak, reproduced in a new manner, with an altered content. That is what we wish to serve with our work. And the reason I mention this here is because it is closely connected to what you asked. Because General Burlakov's letter also responds to a number of aspects which have been burdening the relationship for a long time, and which I have raised.

[Reporter] What you are referring to, and here I have to quote from this letter, for it is unavoidable, is that in this interview you described the Soviet troops' liberating mission as an occupation.

[Annus] I maintain this still today. It is unequivocal that in the short period immediately after the war there cannot be much doubt about this description. If we look at the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty, a similar appellation is used there as well. But if you take a look at the contemporary newspapers, or Russian-language documents, it emerges also from those that that is how they described themselves at that time. As for precisely what happened in 1956—I am not a historian, but we do not have the facts absolutely precisely before us yet. But if I try to evaluate—and I have tried to evaluate—that period, let us say as a soldier, from a professional viewpoint, and to consider how much time is necessary for a chief-command directive issued for such a large-scale military maneuver, from the time of its issue until readiness for action is achieved, then from this I can draw the professional conclusion that here there could hardly be any relevance to whether someone calls someone or does not call someone. It seems unequivocal that the decision for this, at least from the professional point of view, had been taken earlier. The question, in my view, was simply which day, and at what time they should begin. [end recording]

Radio Discussion on Neutrality, U.S. Relations

LD2204095390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0630 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] In recent weeks and months, the idea of Hungarian neutrality has been cropping up again and again. The chairman of the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] has said in several statements that for Hungary, neutrality is a principled demand. However, in international law, neutrality has varying forms. Switzerland, Austria, and Sweden, each have different kinds of neutrality. We, that is to say the MDF, use the term neutrality to mean that we would make ourselves independent of the Warsaw Pact. Geza Jeszenszky, head of the MDF's foreign affairs committee, how would you formulate the idea of neutrality?

[Jeszenszky] Nine months ago the word neutrality still had a somewhat different meaning, because then there still existed in Europe two decidely different political and social systems, which were expressed by the Warsaw Treaty on the one hand and by NATO on the other. And between them there were neutral states, which as a matter of fact belonged without exception to the Western system, but they undertook to remain neutral in the event of a military conflict. While this kind of danger of war persisted in a stronger or weaker form, then for many countries neutrality would have been a desirable, desired, status. At the same time there is no guarantee that discord will not reemerge, perhaps not in an ideological, but in an economic or some other cloak. Therefore, in the case of a small state, it is definitely in its interest to remain outside conflicts that are counter to its interests.

I think that on these issues the other East European states also think in a similar way to us. Therefore, I consider it likely that with Czechoslovakia, with Poland, we shall be able jointly to shape a policy which takes the Soviet Union's security interests and sensibilities into consideration to the maximum degree and which at the same time would, let us say, guarantee for these three states the unlimited assertion of national interests.

[Announcer] Precisely in this connection, I would again quote Jozsef Antall, who has said that the change in the East European political situation questions the Warsaw Pact's right to exist. At the same time Hungary does not want to leave the organization straight away, since this would cause friction with the Soviet Union.

[Jeszenszky] Well, I can only agree with this. It is definitely an important consideration for us that we remain on good terms with all our neighbours, thus also the Soviet Union. But let us face the dangers as well. If the Soviet Union interferes in some form in Lithuania, which would obviously upset the European relationship to a significant extent, for these countries it would speed up the process of seceding from the Warsaw Pact or the Soviet Union. For it would then be more urgent, because then there would be the danger of the restoration of a more bloodily antagonistic power grouping, and we would no longer want to take part in this.

[Announcer] Does the MDF have any concept on how the future of the Warsaw Pact will develop?

[Jeszenszky] A new European security system would have to be worked out. The Hungarian economy is not in a position to build up a strong Army—like Switzerland, let us say—which would be able to defend itself with hope of success against an attack from every direction. Therefore, for us there is a need for participation in some kind of security system. That is also why we would like to build this not within the present framework, but within a wider European one.

[Announcer] At least one group of political observers is of the opinion that every country needs some kind of basic connection in its foreign policy. In the known circumstances this basic connection, for Hungary, has been the Soviet Union. Could it be perhaps that in the future a German connection would take its place?

[Jeszenszky] I do not even think that it is necessarily the case that every state has the need for a patron, even in the case of a small state. For us the really reassuring scenario is where, if you like, we have more than one patron, but at all events where we have more than one friend. Therefore, we definitely want to be on good terms with Germany. The German interest in this region's (?relations will grow), but at all events it is present. But by no means would we like the Central European influence to be one-sided. And as a matter of fact, I do not think even Germany wants that either. By now Germany also participates in the economic life of other countries through multinational enterprises. Germany has renounced a significant part of its [word indistinct] and it will renounce even more for the benefit of the Common Market's joint administration. Therefore, I think that we are not even threatened by this kind of one-sided German orientation. At all events, we would like to bring into being a European orientation. And at present there is a certain readiness for this not only in Germany; we too are regarded by most of Europe as a European country.

[Announcer] Since we have mentioned European orientation, a European joining of forces, there is a need for some kind of Atlantic integration.

[Jeszenszky] We do not conceive of Europe in the narrow geographical sense, but when in Hungary we speak about the West, about Western civilization; in other words, the American continent is also a direct part of this. We would not like a Europe separated from America, but we picture the cooperation of the two significant economic powers, and Hungary too would be a modest point in this.

Disarmament Information Center Opens in Budapest

LD2204194690 Budapest MTI in English
1755 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 22 (MTI)—In the frame of the UN world campaign for disarmament, the Hungarian Disarmament Information Centre opened in Budapest on Sunday.

One of the main tasks of the centre is to assemble foreign technical literature on disarmament and make it accessible to any enquirers.

In his opening address, Ferenc Somogyi, secretary of state of the Foreign Ministry, said it will be the task the new government shortly to be formed, to work out details of the security policy. It can be taken for granted however that active participation at the arms control discussions, and relying on results reached there could be a decisive factor in creating a realistic and effective Hungarian security policy.

Disarmament Roundtable Held in Budapest

LD2204211590 Budapest MTI in English
1846 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 22 (MTI)—Following the opening of the Hungarian Disarmament Information Centre an international roundtable discussion was held by noted disarmament, security policy experts. Guests included Henning Wegener, deputy general secretary of NATO, John Noble, disarmament chief director of the Canadian Foreign Ministry and a number of delegation leaders to the Vienna disarmament negotiations.

Ferenc Somogyi, secretary of state of the Foreign Ministry, called it the chief task of the consultation to assess the situation emerging after the Vienna negotiations. He expressed his hope that the agreement can be concluded in the not too distant future.

Regarding the Hungarian position he said, realities emerging in the wake of changes taking place in Europe must be taken into account. According to Mr. Somogyi, attention should be increasingly focused on the responsibility of each country, rather than the initial approach at the negotiations which was based on the principle of two military blocks.

The present talks also focused on the issue of including for example the air forces in the disarmament talks, and the creation of a comprehensive concept to result in a reliable system which would not only close down a period but serve as a suitable basis also for the future. Another important and so far unsettled problem is posed by the question of forces stationed abroad, and the agreement to be reached on this should be based on an agreement by the receiving and sending country. The avoidance of an agreement that would run counter to the national endeavours of countries, is held essential by the Hungarian side.

USSR Trade To Be Settled in Hard Currency

LD2004175690 Budapest MTI in English
1347 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—For the last time, the Hungarian-Soviet trade and payments protocol was signed in rubles in Moscow on Wednesday.

From next year on, the two countries will settle trade bills in hard currency.

A preliminary agreement was signed in Budapest to this effect in March.

The protocol envisages total Hungarian-Soviet trade of 7.6 billion rubles this year, with 3.7 billion rubles in Hungarian exports and 3.9 billion rubles in imports.

Even though Hungarian imports will fall back by 8.5 per cent, and engineering imports, within that figure, by 13 per cent, the Soviet Union has promised to supply Hungary with 6.48 million tonnes of oil, the same amount as last year.

The contracts stipulating delivery schedules for the second half of the year have yet to be signed by Hungarian and Soviet companies.

Hungarian exports will drop back by 12 per cent, with engineering sales to plummet by 26 per cent over last year and amount to 1.6 billion rubles, while non-engineering exports will grow by 6 per cent.

The protocol includes an agreement on converting the 800-million- ruble Hungarian current accunt surplus into dollars at a 92-cent-to-the-ruble conversion rate.

The amount is to finance the temporary losses Hungary will suffer as a consequence of the worsening of the terms of trade when the two countries switch over to hard-currency accounting in bilateral trade with effect January 1, 1991.

Nemeth, IMF Representative Review Relations

LD2004180690 Budapest MTI in English 1452 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20 (MTI)—Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth on Friday received in parliament the introductory visit of Gyorgy Szapari, the representative in Hungary of the International Monetary Fund [IMF].

At the meeting, the sides reviewed the development of relations between Hungary and the IMF, and the fulfilment of the jointly determined programme.

State Support to Parliamentary Groups Outlined

LD2004164390 Budapest MTI in English 1155 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The amount the Hungarian budget is allocating to parties this year comes to 700 million forints (10 milllion USD).

Two hundred and twenty million forints of this amount was distributed to them before the elections, in proportion to their membership.

Now that the elections are over, the remaining 480 million forints will be disbursed under the party finances law.

Twenty-five per cent of the amount earmarked for party purposes will have to be shared equally between parties who have members in parliament.

At present, this rule applies to six parties: The Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Independent Smallholders' Party, the Hungarian Socialist Party, the Federation of Young Democrats, and the Christian Democratic People's Party.

The remaining 75 per cent will have to be shared on the basis of election returns.

Parties which gained less than 1 per cent of the vote are not entitled to budget subsidies.

Under the above rules, 11 Hungarian parties are entitled to various amounts of allocation.

According to preliminary figures, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the winner at the elections, will be granted 140 million forints, and the Patriotic Electoral Coalition slightly less than 3 million forints.

The Hungarian Socialist Party, the ruling party before the elections, will be allocated a mere 7 million forints for their 3.68-per-cent ratio, compared to their allocation last year when they were in power of nearly 1 billion forints.

The parties will not be allowed to pocket their share in one go, but will be allocated relevant parts of the amount in quarterly portions.

They will be entitled to get 4 per cent of the total in hard currency.

Smallholders Party Holds National Conference

LD2004202190 Budapest MTI in English 1647 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20 (MTI)—An extraordinary national conference was held in Budapest, on Friday, by the Independent Smallholders' Party.

Vilmos Bereczki, spokesman of the party, told MTI after the conference that participants voted in favour of the party holding specific discussions—after preliminary consultations—with the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Christian Democratic People's Party on a possible coalition.

A delegation consisting of five members was also appointed to conduct related talks.

SZDSZ Favors Crisis Management Program

LD2104123790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] The delegates' assembly of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] is analyzing the post-election situation. Jozsef Orosz gives an account:

[Orosz] The SZDSZ, as the strongest opposition party in parliament, wants a stable government and for this it will give every support in parliament. However, it wants to see the coalition government create a crisis management program which works and that it does not procrastinate over its introduction.

The provisional chairman of the alliance, Janos Kis, said that the SZDSZ must change its style from being a party outside parliament into a legitimate parliamentary party.

Janos Kis has offered cooperation to the strongest government party with the provision that the Hungarian Democratic Forum [HDF] unambiguously dissociate itself from the muckraking experienced during the election campaign and that it makes it clear unequivocally that the Democratic Forum is not antisemitic. According to the SZDSZ chairman, through the fanning of racist and antiminority passions the forum has released the genie from the lamp, which has awakened the political underworld. This, in turn, has led to the swastika painted on the statue of Wallenberg.

The other condition of cooperation with the HDF is that the forum should give up its intention of occupying the national media. The alliance conceives a Hungarian radio and Hungarian television which is politically neutral and independent, similar to the British BBC.

The SZDSZ delegates' assembly, prior to the report of the chairman, adopted two letters. In one of these the SZDSZ calls on President Gorbachev to lift the economic blockade over Lithuania and to start negotiations with Vilnius, taking as a point of departure the fact that Moscow had already invalidated the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. In the other letter the SZDSZ greets the Democratic Alliance of Magyars in Romania congress, saying that the federation has the mission to protect the rights of Magyars in Romania.

Free Democrat Leader Kis at Deputies Conference

LD2204230990 Budapest MTI in English 2050 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 22 (MTI)—The AFD [SZDSZ] wishes to become the responsible opposition which does not obstruct but promote the country's governability. This means that the required time of grace must be given to the new government, to enable the elaboration and implementation of the country's economic and social stabilisation programme, it was said by Janos Kis, in his closing speech at the conference of the Alliance of Free Democrats' parliamentary deputies. Mr. Kis was elected his party's president.

Mr. Kis stressed that the AFD [SZDSZ] is past its heroic age. It became the opposition of the government rather than the system. The AFD [SZDSZ] is not an opposition of this new system but its supporter, since they themselves have fought for this change of system. Free Democrats will consider the new government, of which they will be the opposition, as legitimate because the new coalition to be formed had won the vote of the majority of the population. At the same time, the AFD [SZDSZ] is also legitimate, a legitimate opposition, having gained almost 25 per cent of he votes.

The Free Democrats expect the future government coalition to pronounce that it is not the case that the government majority represents the whole nation and the opposition represents a kind of nationless minority.

The Free Democrats wish to fulfil their opposition role with consciousness of their responsibility for the nation. Founding on the idea that the governing majority and the opposition are part of the same nation, the president *of the AFD [SZDSZ] said.*

Meeting Confirms Kis Chairmanship

LD2204232390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The delegates meeting of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], which began yesterday, finished in the past few minutes. Jozsef Orosz reports from the scene about what took place:

[Orosz] The SZDSZ delegate meeting confirmed Janos Kis in his post as party chairman, so the word provisional disappears from his title. The delegate meeting made no changes in the basic political direction of the SZDSZ, so the social-liberal association is the party of freedom and solidarity. At the same time, the association will change its style because it has become the opposition to the government, from having been the opposition to the system. The SZDSZ, as a responsible official opposition, can promote the governability of the country and give time for the coalition government, but expects the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] to state unequivocally that there is no difference between SZDSZ and MDF voters, they are all equally Hungarians.

The association will start proceedings against the MDF because some association leaders were slandered in the MDF paper MAGYAR FORUM during the campaign. In connection with the fear of redundancies in the press and public administration, the SZDSZ decided to defend all those who are under threat of being removed from their jobs because of their political convictions. At the same time, the delegate meeting called on the SZDSZ parliamentary faction to recommend that the mandate of the local councils should be extended until the autumn local elections, but the faction should make important decisions only after coordinating within the party. The SZDSZ regards it as illegal that certain parties and movements try to get hold of councils and their employees and take them under their influence, even before the elections.

Free Democrats Leader Kis on Party Platform

LD2304103690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0445 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Interview with Janos Kis, chairman of the Alliance of Free Democrats, by reporter Jozsef Orosz; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Orosz] What does the SZDSZ mean when it says it is the party of freedom and solidarity?

[Kis] Above all it means that the SZDSZ defends the rights of individuals and minorities. It strives for this country to be a real constitutional democracy. We defend the stance that the resolution of the situation by the Magyar minorities stuck beyond our borders is served by guaranteeing their rights, by equality of rights. We defend the one and only possible solution, the one leading to reconciliation between the peoples and not to the intensification of conflicts between the peoples.

[Orosz] You mentioned defending the interests of the minorities. In topical terms, does this mean that you will defend all those who in times to come might be removed from their workplaces perhaps because of their political convictions? In concrete terms I am thinking of state administration, the Hungarian press, the media, the B-listings [those earmarked for dismissal on account of their politics].

[Kis] I trust that this will not happen, but the SZDSZ is committed to defend all those who might be sacked from their jobs purely because of their convictions, or purely because of the party affiliation. We will defend them even if they belong to the party which has been our chief political opponent, the Hungarian Socialist Party; even if they belong to some other party, or if they do not belong to any political party at all. Our standpoint—and we shall represent this standpoint consistently inside parliament and outside parliament—is that political conviction is just as much a part of freedom of conscience as is religious conviction.

In addition to this, the SZDSZ is an adherent of economic freedom, which means the freedom of employment, but also, naturally, freedom of enterprise and the freedom of ownership as well. The SZDSZ is an adherent of a market economy based on the preponderance of private ownership. So much for what is meant when we say we are the party of freedom.

At the same time, we are aware that there is no modern market economy where the majority of the people are entrepreneurs or owners of capital. The majority everywhere lives off wages, salaries, or other similar private income. And we think that a society can only form a real political community if it recognizes and defends the interests of those living off wages, salaries, and pensions. We are aware that the tackling, the overcoming of the economic crisis will require serious sacrifices from significant social strata, just as the crisis itself has required them up till now. But it is our conviction that these strata must not be allowed to accept these sacrifices as an obligation from the outside.

What is needed is that the government policy for economic stabilization, for economic advance, should come into being through discussions, through discussions with those concerned, the employees. What is needed is strong, independent, trade unions building from below. And the SZDSZ will support the strengthening of the independent trade union movement, whether these movements call themselves trade unions or workers' councils.

[Orosz] The delegates' conference did not make any fundamental change in the Alliance's political line. However, on the political map it has put the SZDSZ left of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, albeit not as a leftwing party. Does this mean that the SZDSZ is slipping, or progressing, from bourgeois liberal ideas toward social democracy?

[Kis] This question itself was voiced in one of the speeches. Otherwise, the SZDSZ has not changed in this regard either. We have never seen ourselves as a purely liberal party; we see ourselves as a social liberal party. The formulation you quoted at the start of our conversation; namely, that the SZDSZ is the party of freedom and solidarity, originates from a principled declaration of ours which we made about a year ago.

HDF Parliamentary Group Holds Founding Session

LD2204020890 Budapest MTI in English
1955 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 21 (MTI)—The two-day founding session by the MP's of the Hungarian Democratic Forum's [HDF] parliamentary faction started in Budapest on Saturday.

In his preamble, Gyorgy Szabad, professor of history, member of the HDF's Presidium, surveyed the history of Hungarian national assemblies.

Subsequently, Jozsef Antall, party president gave an address which was followed by a briefing on the role of parliament and standing orders.

In the afternoon, party MP's of the former parliament informed their newly elected colleagues about practical and technical tasks in parliament.

The faction session will continue on Sunday, when the eight-member Presidium of the parliamentary faction is to be elected, including other officials. The task of professional committees and their composition is also due to be decided at the session.

Antall Elected HDF Parliamentary Leader

LD2204180890 Budapest MTI in English
1645 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 22 (MTI)—The president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) Jozsef Antall, was elected leader of the party's parliamentary faction, according to a Sunday decision by deputies of the HDF, who met for the second day.

In a statement made during the break in the session Mr Antall told MTI that his election can be considered only temporary, to last until the forming of the new government takes place. In case Mr. Antall is given the right to form the country's new government, he will naturally be obliged to renounce from his position as parliamentary faction leader.

In response to the question as to whether he finds the post of prime minister and party president to be compatible, Mr. Antall said.

"In West European democracies it is general practice that the president of the governing party is at the same time prime minister. The two offices therefore do not exclude each other. However the position of faction president and prime minister are incompatible in the same way as membership in the faction presidium and a government position.

MSZDP Board Session on 'Power Struggle'

LD2204015890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] There has been tension at the session of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party [MSZDP] Board, which was attended by Janos Hollos:

[Begin Hollos recording] A state of war continues to reign in the MSZDP. A keen power struggle is in progress within the Presidium. In fact, this is what emerged in connection with today's closed session of the Board. In the Lunchtime Chronicle program, I reported that at the session this morning, they read out a report stating that unknown perpetrators yesterday broke into the car of Gabor Szilagyi, member of the party leadership, and stole valuables and party documents. These documents turned up the next day in the possession of Laszlo Lugossy, head of the Secretariat of the chairman, Anna Petrasovits, which is odd, to say the least.

Now, at the end of the session, Antal Mueller, chairman of the board, revealed that on Thursday they had withdrawn confidence from Gabor Szilagyi and had asked him to return the documents in his possession. Instead, Gabor Szilagyi took the documents out of the party headquarters without authorization. I did not get a substantive reply to my question: Is it true that they got the documents back by breaking into the car of the former party leader, but the fact that the documents had been retrieved was not denied by the chairman of the board, who said also that Sandor Csurdi, the party official responsible for the press, was dismissed this afternoon.

The board took decisions on other matters as well. The Social Democrats will hold their central ceremony on 1 May in Nagyvazsony, while in Budapest, they will celebrate in the People's Park. The base organizations may celebrate together with any party, with the exception of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Hungarian Socialist Party.

The other decision of the Board is that the party has suspended all cooperation with the successor trade unions of the National Council of Trade Unions, due to their unexplained political endeavors. [end recording]

Christian Democratic Party Elects Officials

LD2004202790 Budapest MTI in English 1834 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20 (MTI)—Dr. Tibor Fuzessy was elected president of the parliamentary faction of the Christian Democratic People's Party on Friday. Dr. Miklos Gaspar became the secretary of the group.

Young Democrats Prepare for Opposition Role

LD2304133890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] This morning Fidesz [Federation of Young Democrats] held a briefing. Listen to Peter Szorenyi:

[Szorenyi] By now there is practically no doubt that Fidesz is preparing for an opposition role, because so far there has been no official approach whatever from the Hungarian Democratic Forum. Fidesz at all events can only support a government whose program can be coordinated with the organization's aims. For this very reason, if the spiritual line of the paper MAGYAR FORUM is to be given scope within the future government, then they do not wish to support that leadership. By way of reminder, the paper is edited by Istvan Csurka.

Fidesz's relations with the Hungarian Socialist Party were also mentioned at the briefing. The young democrats insist that the former state party give an account of its assets. Afterwards they could even conduct more serious political coordination discussions with each other, they said, since both organizations will be fulfilling an opposition role in parliament.

Speaking on organizational issues, Istvan Hegedues, member of the board, made it known that they will be setting up a students' section. They will work in a separate committee at the next congress.

The question was also raised whether those over 35 should join Fidesz. Well, here the leaders of the organization present at the briefing voted on the side of gradualism.

Second Stage of Economic Deregulation Completed

LD2004171390 Budapest MTI in English 1049 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 20, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The Hungarian government commissioner in charge of deregulation—Deputy Justice Minister Mr. Tamas Sarkozy—has announced that the second phase of the deregulation programme started last September has now been completed.

The commission dealt with legal regulations the affected ministries did not wish to abolish in their own authority.

With effect May 1, 1990, the Council of Ministers will repeal 130 government orders and 260 orders issued by ministers or state secretaries.

Mr. Sarkozy said that since last September, about 25 per cent of the 3,000 economic regulations have been cancelled.

Mr. Sarkozy's mandate as government commissioner expires on May 1.

He said he intends proposing to the new government that parliament should carry out the function of deregulation in future.

Mr. Sarkozy said his commission would be leaving a 'legacy' to the new government of some new bills on consumer protection, economic competition, the status of workers' councils, and the new labour code.

After appropriate modification, the government can submit these to parliament.

UK Press Magnate To Publish in Hungary

LD2204211890 Budapest MTI in English 1928 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Cannes, April 22 (MTI)—British press magnate Robert Maxwell wishes to promote the creation of independent television also in Hungary. This was reported by Mr. Maxwell himself, who was speaking at a Cannes press conference on the occasion of the publication of the first issue of another English language weekly "THE EUROPEAN".

Responding to a question by MTI's correspondent Mr. Maxwell said his new weekly is to be published in Hungarian as well, Hungary being the only East European publisher so far. There are plans of publishing it also in Russian, as it was recently discussed with Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Maxwell added.

Mr. Maxwell did not elaborate on his Hungarian plans, but disclosed that discussions are progressing well on the launching of an independent TV.

Solidarity National Congress Session Continues

Walesa 20 Apr Address

LD2004131390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0820 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Address by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to the Solidarity Congress on its second day at the Gdansk Olivia Sports Hall—live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] ladies and gentlemen delegates who helped me and understood our struggle, but also those who didn't understand and hindered it. Fate willed it that I jumped over the walls of the shipyard. I did this on my own, of my own free will, in agreement with Bogdan Borusewicz and the free trade unions. At that time, the leader was Bogdan Borusewicz. You liked my jump, ladies and gentlemen, and that's why you chose me to drive this vehicle which is called Solidarity.

At the very beginning, my first conflict was that I included Mssrs. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Geremek, Wielowiejski, and others in the circle of strikers. It was the workers' decision: Let them join in Solidarity, but let them go back from whence they came. There are witnesses to these decisions in the hall. From the beginning all the problems and the leading of this camp were extremely difficult. We built Solidarity from clusters of various orientations, various forces, various enterprises. Democracy was the introduction to the prelude.

Of course when I stood at the head of this union, you gave me the cadres, you gave me a program, a statute, and we were off. But once I had begun to drive this vehicle, I asked myself two questions: Is it possible to drive this vehicle and will there be one stage, or will there be many stages after all. My answer was: There will, then, be many stages. And during the First Congress I said three sentences which the intellectuals forgot. The first sentence: Do not underestimate the opposite side. It is stronger than you think. The second sentence: You gave me the statute, the program, and the cadres, but life will bring the new statute and the new program which will have to be implemented. And then the thunder from the intellectuals: What are you saying; you are offending the Congress; we are wiser. The third sentence: It will be the worst thing if we take over power and the government.

After 10 years of experiences we also have problems. I want to say that I foresaw the delegates' reaction. I reached the conclusion that as a driver I steered this union with great difficulties. Many thought that a worker is an isolated case [przypadek]; the first book by Mr. Badkowski, read it, an isolated case. [sentence as heard] It does not occur to the intellectuals, and today when I [words indistinct] the presidential office, they say that he should look different. That is, if he is an intellectual then he should wear a tie, a bow tie and a overcoat. Others say that if he is a worker he should wear a padded coat. One remark: He should speak better and, above all, read what he is told to read. And I am directed by a third principle: work, gentlemen; work, gentlemen.

And, therefore, I wish to initiate this as well as many other discussions. Expecting what will happen here I have reached the conclusion, that due to the fact that I had been the driver of various groups of different orientations, I cannot write a report, I must not, because the slogan—One's point of view depends on where one is standing—has been confirmed. And, ladies and gentlemen, everyone in this argument is right; both those who supported me and those who did not support me, from their point of view are right. But, besides the implementation of tasks—life introduced new tasks, with me as a driver I had to steer. [sentence as heard] If I had sometimes listened to some I would have hit a tree, or crashed with you all.

And that is why I both listened and did not listen. And when, on 13 December, I was confronted with so many hurdles, so many obstacles, life brought new solutions. And many people said: No, it's the mandate that counts, Lech, only the mandate. But when I came out of internment, there was the TKK [Provisional Coordinating Commission]. No one waited for a mandate, and I had to take that into account. My task, as in the first instance, was to keep going as long as possible, gentlemen, for a long as possible, because there would be a next stage. Thus, my second task after 13 December was to reach the point when you, here, would undertake all those corrections of things which I and we spoiled: in the statute, in the program, and in the cadres.

From the very beginning, I have not hindred democracy because, after all, neither Mr. slowik nor Mr. Rulewski [leaders of rebel Lodz and Bydgoszcz Solidarity factions] were particularly strong in their region. Without my help, they wouldn't be at this congress. But no, ladies and gentlemen, it is time for democracy. Democracy must be applied, but it cannot look the way it does, dear ladies and gentlemen. If you were to invite today—you know who I mean—then I would leave this meeting. I won't sit at the same tables as these gentlemen who caused so much offence by registering, destroying the union, by smashing the foundations, for saying that it was a betrayal. And at the same time [applause] And at the same time, I remind you that I was the first to send a telegram to these gentlemen who were opponents. I said: You must fall into line, all of you, and give back the (?money) because democracy has (?put them forward), and I will honor them. [sentence as heard] I honor them to this day and will honor them. But I will not ride with them because their horses are too weak.

Now, dear ladies and gentlemen, for many of you will be shocked: What sort of a report is this? It can be no different, since as I have said, everyone in this conflict is right. I would have to write a 300-page report, which would probably take up the whole congress, because every clash, every incident, and even every case of opposition has its justification. I am well aware of this. How many times did I stand up against the young people, not because they were wrong—they were right—

but along with reaching precisely the point which we have reached today, certain things still had to be taken on board on the way.

Oh well, certain conditions, agree to certain conditions. That is the role of the driver. And in this connection I spoke out and will speak out many times. That is, not now (?because today is the last day), but as the driver, when I take on such a journey, I must act in this way. However, I know that I am in the civilized world, that I must remind you of certain things, both from history and from our activity. Therefore, I have invited someone who is not so emotionally involved, who was not a driver, but at the same time was close by, so he can do this, because we owe this to you; so that he reminds you of some things; some things he has done his own way. After all, it is a democracy. This person will be Janusz Palbicki from Poznan. He is a precise man and he will say how he saw things, how we were going. However, I will repeat once again that I cannot do this because all of my statements, all of my conditions (?or) all my showing-off, every other one would be: I did this; I proposed this. Well, you don't like that and you are right. I also can't stand it. Only, the conditions were different. I didn't have time for democracy. Someone is showing off here; he wanted to call the National Commission [reference to National Executive Concil] Gentlemen, I tried. Adam Michnik, Wladek Frasyniuk, and (?others) saw my secretary Bush. [sentence as heard] What was the result? They only got a year. They only got a year. And now, of course I could go forward, I could do this. And at the same time we told ourselves this would be evolution, this would be a tripumph at the lowest cost. It would be standing here and together, jointly, correcting our mistakes. There were many of them, more than we had assumed. But the triumph belongs to you. Our mistakes—we were weak because they weakened us, they continue to weaken us to this day—but you have to correct our mistakes here, (?all those that we made), in the statute, in the program, and in the cadres. And everyone has to honor this. Solidarity has enormous, terrific achievements, but even greater expectations. If we are going to carry on doing what we are doing, then of course. [sentence as heard] Offices—maybe someone wants to chase me out. [sentence as heard] Ladies and gentlemen, I did this only for Poland, not for myself, not for an office. That is why I won't fight for any offices, but at the same time I will never budge from responsiblity.

I will always stand up, even if against everybody, even if to give the lie to the delegates, if the necessity arises, because this is not a game. It is a struggle for Poland, and that is also my Poland.

I apologize if I have offended anyone and, at the same time, I wish to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, everybody, both those who gave their support and those who didn't. Such is life. We have no recipes. The triumph is our common one. It is not my triumph. It is a common one. I was only the driver of the whole thing. Except, please note, that after all, as Solidarity, we are a cluster of all orientations. Oh well, a cluster of dirty workers and great eggheads, as I call it, who show off, who—and it's good that they do this, because that's pluralism. Only, let's respect one another, let's not offend one another and, at the same time, let's judge ourselves by our work, because that is what will give us results. And others will end up as they have many times in Poland. [sentence as heard]

I thank everyone who walked with me and against me. I apologize to all those whom I have offended or could not take into account. I very much apologize. I forgive and ask to be forgiven. Thank you. [applause]

Palubicki Presents Leadership Report

LD2004125190 Warsaw PAP in English 1142 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 20—"After the declaration of martial law, we adopted the 'long March' tactics," Janusz Palubicki said while presenting a report on behalf of the outgoing leadership of Solidarity.

"The direct confrontation between the armed authority and society represented by the union could not be settled to society's advantage. Thus, we forced the authority to give up repressive measures.

"Solidarity's victory in elections must become the beginning of taking over the power by the union—such were the expectations of society in June, 1989. The situation when the major part of the government and part of the parliament are Solidarity members creates tensions.

"The government would rather have us as an adviser than a partner—and this concerns above all social policy. The congress must give response to the question about Solidarity's identity under new social and economic circumstances," he said.

Electoral Commission Dissolved

LD2004141290 Warsaw PAP in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 20—Delegates adopted a report of the National Electoral Commission and approved the motion for its dissolution.

Under another point on the agenda, chairman of the Audit Commission Father Henryk Jankowski said that having got acquainted with the financial documentation of the National Executive Commission (KKW), he had no reservations as to how the union used its financial means. Jankowski moved for the vote of acceptance of accounts for Solidarity's outgoing authorities. The Congress granted the vote. One delegate was against.

Delegates adopted a resolution supporting the declaration of independence issued by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania on March 11, 1990.

Resolution on Lithuania

LD2004163290 Warsaw PAP in English 1538 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 20—Recognizing the right of every nation to freedom and sovereignty, the 2nd National Congress of Solidarity delegates supports the declaration of independence announced by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic on March 11, 1990, reads the resolution adopted by the Solidarity Congress here today.

We call on all people of good will, on nations and governments of the states-signatories of the CSCE Final Act to recognize the declaration of independence of the Lithuanian nation as convergent with this act.

We believe that Europe will become a common home of free nations soon, the resolution says.

Walesa Explains Program

LD2104181690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0916 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Program statement by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa at the Solidarity Congress in the Gdansk Olivia Sports Hall, followed by a question-answer session—live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Now, Lech Walesa will take the floor.

[Walesa] Ladies and Gentlemen! You are expecting much. You are expecting me to have a piece of paper prepared, but I will surprise you again. I have nothing prepared and I will say why. I could have bought a well-prepared text, depending on the price. I could have learned to read it, and I could have just read it. However, I already told you on the second day that a program is very much needed, but life will require us to implement its own program. But, now I will hear some noise. He wants to make insults again. No, ladies and gentlemen. A program that will be drawn up here will have to be implemented because the political situation is different. Martial law is not envisaged. For this reason we will be able to do a lot, but at the same time we have to keep our eyes open to what life brings.

To elaborate on the subject more fully, you, ladies and gentlemen, have also been wondering why Lech Walesa proposed Andrzej Slowik. Ladies and gentlemen, when we are building democracy you can see changing attitudes and people's returns. [sentence as heard] You could see how hard it was for us when best friends, members of the Presidium, betrayed us and set up their own bodies. But weren't they perhaps right? I must say that sometimes I also think that Andrzej Slowik and his group, when they declared their disobedience to me and the union, were right to a certain extent for the situation was uncertain. I do not condemn that group because if the outcome had been different, if it had not been my concept that won, but their concept, it would have turned out that they were right. For this reason, at a moment when we are building democracy, let various opinions surface, let us learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others. I have applied this principle without malice, and I will do so in the future because I deeply believe in democracy and the wisdom resulting from it. I believe in democracy even when there is too much of it, like yesterday when for four or five hours we discussed things, which cost us all over 60 million [currency not specified]. In the end we came back to square one. But this is necessary because it shows us our mistakes and obstacles in an abbreviated lesson of democracy. Now, coming back to the subject. You want to know about Lech Walesa's program, a more concrete program. I would like to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that a program which we sweat out here together—I also want to join in. Again, I must say I don't agree with Andrzej Slowik and I won't agree with the other concept; he supports the program of a pure trade union. The other concept which occurs here as well is a classic trade union which has its representatives in the government and the parliament and through whom it attempts to serve the public maximally and have an impact on it all.

I think that many times in our lives there have been options; there were many options. Now, we have two options to chose from and we shall choose a third one. Life will chose a third one, namely a middle option in between all of them.

Our aim is and should be to improve the lives of people. This is our aim. But things will not be better if we do not improve the economic system. In order to change the economic system one must close one's eyes to unpopular decisions. One should join in to defend people belonging to our union, but one should allow reforms to happen. We have no choice, for we cannot stay in the system we used to be in and not sort out anything for the working world or better conditions.

To sum up, Lech Walesa's program will be to implement what we shall agree on here and, at the same time, to amend it by what life brings as its own program, taking account, of course, of democracy to the greatest extent. It will be a middle-of-the-road program. It will be a program that will direct us more and more along trade union lines, but, at the same time, it will make it possible for our state and our homeland to reform itself. This is difficult. It is very difficult. I doubt whether we shall realize it.

These contradictory things that I have said many times, as some people say, like Mr. Malachowski, (?to whom) I would like to apologize because here, too, I have said some distorted things every now and then, who speaks of my excitability. [sentence as heard] Ladies and gentlemen, I do not fear enemies of any kind very much. Most grief is caused by your friends. And that is why I get carried away when friends tread on your toes, or outright don't tell the truth. I am sensitive to the truth, to honest truth, and that is why when I see such distortions I, in short, blow my top.

I don't want to use up any more of my agenda time. I don't want to speak any longer. I think I will make up for anything I haven't said in the questioning you are going to subject me to, ladies and gentlemen. Because there we will get specifics, because you will be interested in this and I will be answering honest questions, rather than whatever comes to my mind. So I put myself in your hands and I ask for impudent, but honest questions.

And there is one more thing I want to say. At the end I would like to settle accounts with these matters and attitudes which I could not settle today because at the time we were in the middle of the electoral game and they would have said: You just want to do your opponent in. I won't do that because my honor won't let me, but at the end I am going to let myself go.

[Moderator] Lech Walesa did not use up four minutes of the time allocated for his self-presentation speech. Now he will answer questions. [passage omitted on questions concerning the structure of Solidarity and its place and role in Poland]

[Unidentified speaker] Lech, as I hear what you say, I consider you to be an excellent politician. Don't you think it is high time you got on a chestnut mare [reference to Marshal Pilsudski's mount] and rode into Belweder [presidential palace], and we will help you along? [laughter, applause]

[Walesa] Ladies and gentlemen, let me put it like this. This is bragging. Here I do more than the president. And there I would be able to do less—and here I agree with many intellectuals—from there my delivery would be different, my speeches, too, would be different, but they wouldn't be against, wouldn't be contrary to my moral principles. It's just that the way you see things depends on where you stand. And that is why today I am greater than the president. I do more and I have to do still more. [applause]

In response to our beloved intellectuals: Gentlemen, I won't make a fool of you. Before I start reading things out, I am already today practicing reading aloud at home. [sentence as heard] And I already can read. [applause]

[Srebrny] Marian Srebrny, Mazowsze region. In your replies to questions we have heard here a great many critical words with respect to the current economic situation, including the expressions we are going in the wrong direction and we have to find solutions. I wanted to ask you what is your view of the following: How did it happen that even to this day there has been not a single television debate between Premier Balcerowicz on the one hand and at least one economist with different views? And a question which follows from this. Do you intend to work toward the situation where alternative economic programs have a real opportunity of competing with the official government programs and also inside the Solidarity union?

[Walesa] Ladies and gentlemen, you have no doubt that I am in favor of alternative solutions, because I have even forced my opponent there, so this goes without saying. [sentence as heard]

[Srebrny, interrupting] But that wasn't in the economic field, in the field of economic plans.

[Walesa] Just a moment, just a moment. At the time there were no serious economic solutions. There was only the Balcerowicz plan.

Of course, in terms of pure slogans I myself have at least 50 programs, some are pie-in-the-sky, some make some sense. But, I would like to say that I supported—so that there is no clarity yet again [as heard]—I supported, I support, and I will go on supporting the Mazowiecki government because it is ours and everyone in the world has supported it because from this road, with these solutions, it is possible to get to good solutions in Poland. It is possible. Although as a worker and a doctor I think that the same objective can be achieved by approaching it from different sides. That is, you can march on Moscow from Paris, from Berlin, or from Warsaw.

[Moderator] Thank you. Microphone number five, go ahead please.

[Slomski] Marek Slomski, Western Pomerania. I wanted to ask the following: Do you not think that the (?role) of the so-called pure union, which the previous speaker suggested, will precisely weaken union effectiveness, at least over the next few years?

[Walesa] I am sorry. I did not answer the last time, so we didn't get into a quarrel. Ladies and gentlemen, there are a great many quarrels in Poland. There is great apathy. You are activists, after all, and what is it that you see around you? And now we would allow an even greater mess than we already have. And we do—we don't—it isn't—I don't know whether I am expressing myself well. I am not in favor of holding back other options; I am not in favor of not submitting other solutions. It is just that your responsibility and ours, and the government's, for Poland, for apathetic Poland, for the mess in Poland, for not adding fire to, not adding gasoline to the fire also rests on us. [sentence as heard] And I think that here, knowing what is going on, they don't want to add gasoline to the fire. Things are bad, things are very bad, and to say on top of this that this program which is being implemented with such difficulty, which is so difficult, is still no good, is like committing a crime against a dying man.

[Moderator] Could you repeat question number five, please.

[Walesa] Right, I am sorry, I have forgotten.

[Moderator] Could the question from microphone number five be repeated, please?

[Slomski] The same question again. Do you not think that the idea of a so-called pure union suggested by the previous speaker will weaken union effectiveness, at least over the next few years?

[Walesa] Ladies and gentlemen, to apply the idea of a pure union today would mean to announce an immedaite general strike right here. [applause] We have all the conditions—the conditions, the dissatisfaction, the price rises, the old nomenklatura, the conditions—all the things for a general strike. We topple the government. Find me a premier, find me a government. Well, not me, find them for Poland, because I am saying the wrong thing. I am saying find them for me. That is an error. I got it wrong. Find a premier for Poland. Find solutions for Poland. Well, the responsibility for all this, the claims, the demands; we would immediately lay Poland flat on its back. Of course, we fight in the streets, some get left there and that would probably be a bit better, especially for those in contact with the cemetery. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted: questions on union mechanisms and structures, social welfare]

[Moderator] Microphone number six, go ahead, please.

[Czarnicka] Malgorzata Czarnicka, delegate number 45, Lower Silesia Region. In one of your answers today you used the following words: I will totally dedicate myself to the union. In light of this, could you, before us delegates here, declare unequivocally that you will not run for president?

[Walesa] I declare that I will organize a meeting of the National [Executive] Commission and tell them at my own expense: Look, your Lesio [diminutive of Lech] is president. Do you follow me? Wouldn't it be nice if something like that happened? I don't believe in it either. Too much water has passed under the bridge. There are too many takers. I am not striving for it. But just think: president with a union pedigree, your mate Lesio, who invites you to come along; the president poses for photographs with you. Wouldn't that be nice; wouldn't that be fine? Is it worth falling out over? [passage omitted on moderator ending the question-answer session]

Walesa Reelected Solidarity Chairman

LD2204231590 Warsaw PAP in English 2218 GMT 22 Apr 90

["Solidarnosc Congress Continues; Walesa Re-elected Solidarnosc Chairman"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, April 22 [dateline as received]—The elections of trade union chairman aroused the biggest emotions during Saturday's debates even though Lech Walesa's predominance was clear from the start. The results of the voting confirmed this: Walesa won with 362 votes.

Discussion

Discussions began with a strong accent. Zbigniew Ingier postulated to set up a tribunal which would put on trial the whole PUWP [Polish United Workers Party/PZPR] and all of its front organizations as genocidal organizations. The key leit motifs of the 2-day discussion concerned the issue of whether Solidarnosc should be directly engaged in politics.

The advocates of the strictly trade union option gained the upper hand. There were however motions to start discussions on a program of Solidarnosc's own political representation and to field Solidarnosc deputies and senators in the long-term.

Speaking about a rejection of socialism Jan Rulewski said: "The hydra has only lost its head. We must clean clear the pockets of members of nomenklatura companies and disarm others. The fact that we have not done this yet arouses fear and is one of the reasons why our union members barely 2 million members."

Speaking about intra-union matters, he said: The danger for the union consists in that the internal channels of democracy have been clogged while the virus of Walesaism has attacked the whole union. It now seems that we are a one-person union." [quotation marks as received]

Jacek Kuron's Address

Ministers of Labour and Social Policy Jacek Kuron referred to some postulates forwarded at the congress. "We have an economic program but we do not have a program of social policy." He acknowledged, adding: "I feel responsible for this. I nonetheless assumed that such a program must be put into effect by all of society and that trade unions should play a key role. The most urgent matter today is to defend those whose living standard is falling below a certain level."

"In our society," said Zbigniew Bujak while referring, as the only one, to the ethos of Solidarnosc, "intolerance is growing towards those suffering from Aids. Towards the intelligentsia, the increasing margin of intolerance are nationalism and populism. The mixture of these two attitudes leads to fascism, as history showed."

He also voiced concern over the growing anti-Semitic feelings and, referring to the war experiences of Poles, he recalled that the holocaust of Jews had taken place on this soil. "Having such experiences we ought to show ever stronger resistance against this wave of hatred. This may become the biggest contribution on the part of Solidarnosc to the struggle against totalitarianism," he said and added that the road to Europe would be open for Poland as a country of tolerance.

Addresses by Foreign Guests

The meeting warmly applauded AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland and chairman of the Lithuanian trade unions Kazimieras Uok. The latter greeted the delegates on behalf of the 2nd Sajudis Congress, now in session in Vilnius, and thanked Poles for their political support in the struggle for Lithuania's independence.

"Your congress has made Gdansk today a real capital of a free world," Kirkland said and added that Poland had the right to expect the West not to give abstract advices but to provide her with economic assistance. He assured the meeting that American trade unionists would take moves in this respect.

Chairman of the West-German trade union center DGB Ernst Breit recalled that the trade unions he represented had come in favour of guarantees for the Odra/Nysa border long before the 1970 treaty. "That is why we have no understanding of evasive statements by German politicians who keep saying that the final settlement must be reserved for a peace treaty," he said.

Resolutions

The congress adopted numerous resolutions. In one of them, they demanded free and democratic elections to parliament, and general and direct presidential elections next spring.

A resolution on the protection of interests of the Polish culture demanded that national minorities in Poland find here conditions conducive to free development of their culture. Another document adopted by the congress spoke about the necessity to assign buildings left by former political parties and youth organizations for educational, scientific, cultural and health protection purposes.

In a special resolution the meeting obliged the new authorities to sponsor the construction of a monument to miners of the "Wujek" colliery fallen for Solidarnosc. The congress also appealed to the government to appoint a special commission to investigate the tragedy of the family of GAZETA WYBORCZA reporter Jerzy Jachowicz. They also adopted a resolution on the possibility for one person to hold both trade union and parliamentary offices.

The congress also held hearings of candidates to the National Commission of Solidarnosc. Three candidates of the 96 running for seats in the commission resigned.

Following the hearings, the congress began voting.

Vote Counts Reported

LD2104135190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1325 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] We have been waiting for some minutes for Lech Walesa, new chairman of the NSZZ [Independent Self-Governing Trade Union] Solidarity, to start his first speech after his reelection.

Lech Walesa was elected thanks to the votes of 362 delegates. Let me remind you that Lech Walesa received 77.5 percent of valid votes. There were 469 delegates taking part in the ballot. Andrzej Slowik received 52 votes and Tomasz Wojcik 25 votes.

Walesa Acceptance Speech

LD2104145890 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1330 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Speech by Lech Walesa following his reelection as Solidarity chairman in Gdansk—live]

[Text] Esteemed delegates! Dear friends! I must say that I am very pleased and, at the same time, I am aware how enormous is the cross which you and I together will have to bear from this moment on. It is a union cross but also a Polish cross. I said to you earlier, ladies and gentlemen, that even more difficult tasks are in front of us than are behind us. Because when things are difficult and when things go wrong, when the screw is being tightened, then the chance it will break is smaller. [as heard]

Today, according to this practical rule—I have remained a practicing electrician—I must say that everything in our country is in our hands. My motto, a motto of my speeches at this congress, was that we only have as much freedom and democracy as we can use. In the 45 years of our history there was no such opportunity. Many people paid with their lives for this Poland and for these opportunities. We don't even know today where some of their graves are.

That is why, looking back at our great bloodless victory and, at the same time, at the sacrifice paid by Poles over those 45 years, we must pledge not to destroy this legacy of previous generations when there is an opportunity for us.

I have not prepared any speech again because I was not all that certain of my victory, as I have been a bit naughty toward you, toward society, and toward Poland during the past 10 years. I know it, but there were no wise ones, for nobody had walked along this path before and because of this we had to show the way. That is why I was not sure and at the same time I had an inner temptation. It is good that my secretary is sitting here next to me. He could say that, if I were a materialist or a career opportunist, of which I am suspected, today I have invitations covering at least two months only to deliver lectures for $2 million [as heard].

I will not do any economic business thanks to the union, but thanks to the union you and I will do political business, business for Poland. And this business has no price, no value.

Well, I think I have gotten it wrong again. It is a cause without value, a cause for all of us, for Poland, and in connection with that let's not use any amounts to gauge ourselves by, let's not use position to gauge ourselves by.

Ahead of us lies great and difficult work. The public is dissatisfied. We will have to solve the problems including the Solidarity problems that were raised here, that is those that we have split up. I shall submit proposals in this respect. I shall be asking that those colleagues who today were converted or came to understand that this was the more appropriate road do their utmost to bring the remaining colleagues to our common Solidarity table. I again told you yesterday, ladies and gentlemen, that I would not sit at the same table as these gentlemen. That is not true because these gentlemen, if they have any honor, would have to say: Lech Walesa is a traitor and you are traitors. They couldn't accept any other form. This is a neo-union, this is a bad accord, some say with the communists, others say with the Jews, and still others with someone else. And you know full well that this is an accord in the interests of Poland, with everyone.

Poland is pluralist, it has to have a place for everyone. Thus we, without putting others at risk, have backed precisely this kind of development and along this road we are hoping, with improvements, to serve the public better, by serving the public. Along this road we are expecting to get results, we are expecting that Poland will enter the correct road of development because it uses the same solutions as the whole world does, so there can be no mistake here.

And in connection with this—I am about to finish, because not having prepared this I am begining to go around in circles—I would very much like to say to you, those who voted for me and those against me: We have a great opportunity ahead in Poland, we have a chance to drag it into Europe, we are neither more stupid nor poorer, and today we have an opportunity, although we are poorer from the point of view of proposals and from the point of view of opportunities. So everything is in our hands, Poland is in our hands.

If at any point I have verbally made a fool of myself, put it down to lack of preparation and excitement, and at the same time I would like to speak about one more issue, outside the agenda. That is how it goes once a worker begins to speak.

In a previous speech I said that 15 percent of Poles fought and the rest collaborated.

And you see, ladies and gentlemen, what I have gotten myself into: He has insulted the nation and is turning Poles into traitors. But I said it in the context of work collaboration, that they had families, that they had homes, and that they had to live in cities, and not that they were traitors and informers. My father did not want to be a collaborator in this sense and he said no. Today, I have no father. My father died because he did not report for work. And one had to live for Poland and one had to fight for Poland. Everyone fought for Poland: both those who worked and those who gave money to others and those who fought with weapons in their hands.

If I insulted anyone by the way I put things, I am sorry, I did not mean it. I meant to express things honestly but I chose the wrong words.

Thank you, once more, ladies and gentlemen. I am counting on your cooperation and I hope that when we gather at our third congress Poland will be on the right road and things will be better in Poland. I deeply believe in this because there is an opportunity in you and there is an opportunity for democracy. All the best! [applause]

Free Elections Demanded

LD2204190190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] The Second National Congress of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union Solidarity, which is holding its deliberations in Gdansk, has passed a resolution in which it is stressed that the composition of the parliament chosen in June of last year does not reflect the real balance of political and social forces in the country. The process of necessary political and economic changes needs to be accelerated, the resolution states. The congress demands the holding of completely free and democratic parliamentary elections, as well as the universal and direct election of the president of the Polish Republic, in the spring of next year.

Minister of Labor and Social Policy Jacek Kuron addressed certain postulates put forward in the course of the discussion. He recognized the social welfare net as being the most urgent matter, the protection of all of those whose standard of living falls below a certain threshold.

The Second National Solidarity Congress passed a resolution which stated that it is in order to combine parliamentary and union posts. Also accepted, among other things, was a resolution on the matter of the defense of the interests of Polish culture and on the matter of the union's help for the initiative to commemorate the victims at the Wujek mine following the introduction of martial law.

Walesa Rules Out Presidency at News Conference

LD2204004490 Warsaw PAP in English 2000 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 21—Lech Walesa was re-elected here today Solidarity chairman. 362 delegates out of 451 attending the 2nd Solidarity congress gave their votes for Walesa.

Soon after his re-election Walesa met with newsmen.

The Solidarity chairman said his re-election was not his success but a common achievement of the entire trade union.

"I am for a strong and numerous trade union," Walesa said.

Walesa did not say whom he wanted to see as his strong deputy but he announced efforts to bring back to Solidarity those activists who had left it.

"There is a place for everybody in our trade union. I want Andrzej Gwiazda to join us," added he.

The majority of questions concerned Walesa's possible candidature in the next presidential election. While answering these questions, the Solidarity chairman said:

"I do not know whether as president with a trade union background I would not serve Solidarity better. If the homeland puts me on this pedestal, I will invite to the Belvedere all my friends from the National Committee and I will tell them it has been the Solidarity wave that has brought me here. Then at a common table we will quickly elect a new chairman of the union."

"I will not assess Wojciech Jaruzelski's presidency. Poles must decide themselves whether it is better if the president wears a bow-tie and speaks ten languages or whether he wears a workman's protective jacket."

"If there is no other way out, I will not avoid any duties or responsibility. But I will not seek presidency," said he.

Following are some other statements made by Walesa.

"If I met Mr Gorbachev I would advise him to fully use his historic chance and put in order many bad solutions. I would tell him to do more and to give more freedom. You must not shed a single drop of blood, I would say."

"If one says that I cooperate with Communists and Jews it is a substitution. There are many wise Poles of Jewish origin without whom this country would be much poorer. There is no Zionism in Poland. This is fiction," stressed he.

"All East European countries have similar problems but Poland has the biggest chances—with Solidarity, Lech Walesa, the church and the Polish pope," the Solidarity chairman said.

Jaruzelski: Talks With Democratic Left 'Useful'

LD1904202290 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Wojciech Jaruzelski was the guest of the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left today. After a two-hour talk with the Sejm deputies—unfortunately journalists were not allowed in—our bulletin asked for an interview. [passage omitted]

[Begin Jaruzelski recording] I consider this meeting very interesting and useful for me. Above all I considered it my duty to take part in this meeting as I was elected as a president in particular with the votes of the deputies present here, as well as other deputies of course, and I have come to the conclusion that I should make a kind of a report on how I am performing my duties.

At the same time, this was an opportunity to share views on the international situation, which we recently have all been very involved with. My interlocutors were interested in everything connected with my recent visit to the Soviet Union and other international contacts which I have had recently.

I tried to speak about these matters while stressing the importance of strengthening Poland's interior, in the political sense, the importance of stabilization, strengthening the democratic processes and at the same time the effectiveness of action, supporting policies which serve such goals, actions for the sake of economic effectiveness, and the implementation of all tasks which might have useful effects.

Personally I evaluate this as a pleasant meeting, a useful one, and I value it greatly. Anyway, this probably will not be the only one because I have also been asked by the Peasant party for a meeting, and I am ready to do it. Any parliamentary floor group or deputy who sees the need to talk with the president can count on such a talk. [end recording]

Jaruzelski Assesses Recent USSR Visit

LD2204224390 Warsaw PAP in English 2055 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 22—The main TV news bulletin aired this evening an interview with Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski who elaborated on his recent visit to the Soviet Union (paid this April 11-14).

He said that the visit was of great political, economic and moral significance while Katyn was for him an exceptionally intense experience. "Mikhail Gorbachev gave me a set of documents, including one signed by Beria, which contain different orders concerning Polish prisoners of war. There are no clear instructions as to the crime itself, but they show that the fate of the prisoners had been decided," he said.

Jaruzelski described the list containing 14,793 names of Polish officers as the most valuable document. He said that the visit was very important and very fruitful and added he set especially high value on his talks with Mikhail Gorbachev.

Niezabitowska Describes Katyn Documents

LD2004180390 Warsaw PAP in English 1215 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 20—Documents brought by President Wojciech Jaruzelski from the Soviet Union include 1,000 sheets with some 15,000 names of Polish officers interned and convoyed to Smolensk, Government Spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska told a press conference today.

She added that the documents will be accesible to the families of those murdered and to historians in May.

Soviet Admission of Katyn Massacre Viewed

AU1904125890 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 17 Apr 90 pp 1, 9

[Krystyna Kersten commentary: "Truth has Triumphed"]

[Text] Let us be frank: The Friday TASS communique on the tragedy of Katyn constitutes a public admission by the USSR Government of a truth that has been known for decades, at least since 1946, when, at the Nuremberg trial of Nazi war criminals, the Soviet attempt to attribute the massacre of Polish officers in Katyn forest to the Germans failed. Jerzy K. Zawodny, the author of a book about Katyn that has recently been published in Paris, says that the "Katyn issue disappeared from the Nuremberg trials." When Dr. Hans Laternser, defense counsel for the German high command, asked who was responsible for Katyn, the president of the court, Judge Lawrence, replied: "I suggest questions like that should not be answered." But even before then the Polish Government, Polish society, and most Western politicians had no doubts as to whose hands had fired the bullets into the backs of the necks of over 10,000 officers from the Kozhelsk, Starobelsk, and Ostashkov camps. It was deceitful to call Katyn a "blank spot in Polish-Soviet relations." There was enough evidence to prove that the Soviets had committed the atrocity. Expecting that this act of genocide would never be discovered, the Soviet authorities did not even take too much trouble to fabricate some plausible story about what had happened to the thousands of officers, whom the staff of General Anders had been seeking in vain since the summer of 1941.

So the truth was known. Nevertheless, both during the war and during the Nuremberg trials, the United States and Great Britain kept silent. Only the Polish Government, resisting British pressure, rejected the Soviet explanations given following the publication on 13 April 1943 of the German communique announcing the discovery of mass graves of Polish officers. The Polish Government asked the International Red Cross in Geneva to investigate the matter, which Stalin used as a pretext to break off diplomatic relations with Poland, something he had been wanting to do in any case. Not until 1951, during the cold war, did the U.S. Congress appoint a commission which was supposed to gather material to prove Soviet responsibility for the Katyn atrocity. The gathered material was conveyed to the UN General Assembly "in order to file an indictment against the USSR before the International Court of Justice." As we know, this never occurred, but the veil of silence had been lifted, and the falsehood was revealed at least in the West, for in Poland, as in the entire Soviet orbit, the story blaming the Germans for the atrocity was still current, at a time when the Soviet Union was being blamed everywhere else. First of all, this story blamed the "German fascist blackguards" and later the "imperialists and warmongers." As recently as 1985, the following inscription was placed on the Katyn memorial at the Powazki cemetery in Warsaw, in defiance of the truth: "To the victims of the Hitlerite atrocity."

The Soviet authorities have taken a very long time to admit the truth about Katyn, much too long. The announcement in May 1988 about the investigation of "blank spots" aroused Polish hopes that the communists would at last reveal the honest truth about the Katyn atrocity and that at last the graves of the officers from Starobelsk and Ostashkov would be revealed. It is inexplicable how Polish and Soviet politicians could fail to understand that by revealing "blank spots," the first thing they would have to reveal was the truth about Katyn. But they did fail to understand this.

And today? What is the significance of the TASS communique published on 13 April? Even though it is so delayed, there is no doubt that it clears the pathway of Polish-USSR relations. Without the truth about Katyn, in other words the truth that the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs [NKVD] murdered the officers from all three camps, there is no question of friendly relations. For Katyn is a symbol of the Polish struggle for national existence against Stalin's planned desecration of Poland; a symbol of an atrocity that has gone unpunished, of a violation of human rights, of the brutal extermination of entire nations; a symbol of lies and falsehood that has permeated Polish-Soviet relations for half a century; and a symbol of struggle to reveal the truth. All that remains is to hope that eventually we will hear a statement fully expressing the Soviet position vis-a-vis all the wrongs and atrocities committed against Poland and Polish citizens by the Stalinist system.

There is no doubt that, 50 years after the discovery of the Katyn atrocity by the Germans, the Soviet Government has taken a major step forward, opening up new prospects before our societies, before the families of the victims, and before historians. We have gained the chance to reveal previously unknown circumstances about the atrocity and, most of all, find the two remaining mass graves containing the remains of the officers from Starobelsk and Ostashkov. May this occur as quickly as possible, without undue delay. It is high time for candles to burn at these graves, just as they are burning in Katyn itself. It is high time for prayers and the strains of the Polish national anthem to resound in the air there.

Stancescu Withdraws From Presidency Race

AU2104172890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1701 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/4/1990—Mr. Nicu Stancescu, chairman of the Democratic Union Party [DUP], announces in a communique to the Romanian news agency ROMPRES that he gives up the candidacy for Romania's presidency. Explaining his decision, the DUP chairman shows that these last few days "the democratic political formations get disunited and turn one against the other, which is a clear token that our democracy is far from ripe. In order not to purposefully heighten this recent childish discord in our political life, I think it necessary and opportune not to run for presidency, as so far".

Thanking the citizens who ensured his meeting the legal requisites to run for presidency, Mr. Nicu Stancescu opines that "I will be of more help in the period ahead if I actively participate in parliamentary life, especially in consideration of the fact that the country's Constitution too, will be drafted in this period".

Ion Ratiu Registers Presidential Candidacy

AU2204182090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1644 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/4/1990—The central electoral office registered on April 22,1990 at 18:30 [1530 GMT] Ion Ratiu's candidacy to Romania's presidency, nominated by the Christian Democratic National Peasant Party.

The other candidacies to presidency registered to this hour: Ion Iliescu in behalf of the National Salvation Front, and Radu Campeanu, in behalf of the National Liberal Party.

As already announced, the deadline for candidacy registration is midnight April 22.

Olga Cristescu To Run for Presidency

AU2004182890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1727 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Election Campaign: The Eighth Candidate to Romania's Presidency—a Woman"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—Exactly one month before the May 20 elections, a new candidacy for Romania's presidency has been announced in Bucharest: Mrs. Olga Cristescu, director of the radio and TV case enterprise. She is an independent candidate and is supported by the League for Children's Rights of Romania.

In a meeting with Romanian journalists and foreign press correspondents held on April 20 Mrs. Cristescu stated: "I am as skilled in leading a country as I am in managing an enterprise." Asked whether in the short while left for the official registration of her candidacy (April 22 is the deadline) she would be able to gather the 100,000 supporters stipulated by the voting law, she did not rule out the possibility, while considering as necessary an extension of the time required by the law, especially for the independent candidates.

Mrs. Cristescu had registered as independent candidate for a senator seat the previous day.

Olga Cristescu is the eighth candidate to Romania's presidency. The other candidates are: Radu Campeanu, NLP [National Liberal Party] chairman; Ion I. Bratianu, chairman of the Liberal Union; Ion Ratiu, nominated by the Christian Democratic National Peasant Party, president of the World Union of Free Romanians; Ion Iliescu, PNUC [Provisional National Unity Council] president and chairman of the NSF [National Salvation Front] Steering Collegium; G. Popilean, chairman of the Christian Republican Party; Nicu Stancescu, chairman of the Democratic Union Party; Nica Leon, chairman of the Free Democratic Union.

Cristescu Asks Registration Deadline Extension

AU2204184290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1615 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/4/1990—Mrs. Olga Cristescu who has recently announced its [as received] wish to run as independent candidate for the country's presidency and for the senate, requested in a declaration to ROMPRES and to the television an extension by at least ten days of the deadline for the registration of candidacies, especially in the case of the independent candidates. Her demarche is motivated especially by the fact that in the election campaign, "unlike the parties, the independent candidates, although equal before the law, have not been given any state subsidies although the number of their supporters goes by far beyond the number of members required for setting up parties."

She also requested that the issuance of any act that might increase some political formations' electoral capital be immediately desisted, and that candidates be ensured body guard.

International Press Center Set Up for Elections

AU2004121490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0643 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—An international press centre of the Central Electoral Bureau will be operational at the "Intercontinental" Hotel where all the foreign and Romanian journalists will be accredited. They will be issued nominal accreditation cards which will allow them to take part in all electoral activities and benefit from all necessary assistance. 59 40 00 is the telephone number where those concerned can obtain additional information.

'Communist Militants' Said To Lead Nation

AU1904195690 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 12 Apr p 2

[T. Bucur article: "Incredible but True..."]

[Text] The Romanian revolution of 16-22 December 1989 has won. Its slogan was "Down with communism," "Down with the tyrant."

But when our heads cleared after the revolution we noticed something incredible under the aegis of the National Salvation Front [NSF]. Old families of communist militants were at the helm of the country: Iliescu, Roman, Brucan, and others. And all that after an anticommunist revolution.

Mr. Iliescu, I am frightened by communism (that is why I was not a Romanian Communist Party [RCP] member and I am not a member of any party) and even you increase my fear caused by the 4 million communists (who paid their membership fee), members of the Union of Communist Youth, pioneers, and their families—that means half of the country's population.

Please, do not wave this slogan, it is only a phantom; however, phantoms can create a state of suspicion and fear, while I realize how unrealistic is the image that you want to achieve with an unrealistic goal. The Romanians have never been communists, except for the RCP nomenklatura and for some activists.

Maybe you have good intentions, however, in my mind an RCP Central Committee secretary and a first secretary in two very big counties, remains a symbol of communism and I wish we could cut out such symbols.

This country can be led by noncommunists, too.

It would be a truly patriotic gesture if you withdrew after the elections and we would thank you for that and for what you have done for this country, although it is not in the nature of communists to renounce power, however, through you, this incredible action would become true.

Mr. Brucan's route of dissidence—Bucharest, London, Washington, Moscow, Damaroaia—does not succeed in impressing me—on the contrary, the polymorphism of communism with a human face, that preaching for the "stupid ones" and "clever ones" is even insulting for any person of good will.

Even the Securitate has its dissidents, such as General Pacepa. But what happened to the Securitate officers in the foreign espionage services who remained inside the country? The majority (and who knows how many they were?) were transferred to "civilian" life in important jobs in big enterprises, ministries, and institutions. However, what is interesting is the fact that after the December 1989 revolution, some of these people were promoted in their functions and ranks—or were they also dissidents?

At the same time, those who suffered long years of detainment in communist prisons are slandered and in the Provisional National Unity Council, some people asked the question whether the Association of Former Political Prisoners should or should not become a member of this council, while Mrs. Doina Cornea is frequently threatened.

All these things seem to me incredible during the days of our young democracy, nevertheless, unfortunately they are true and they have a bitter taste.

The historical parties, which counted hundreds of thousands of victims in the struggle against communism, are slandered and the Romanians from abroad, who raised their protesting voices against Ceausescuism and communism in Romania are viewed with suspicion. The "Free Europe" and "Voice of America" Radio stations, disputed by the dictatorship, started to be disputed again and this makes us ask the question: Who are those who dispute them and what is their goal? Are there still Romanians who desire a new communism, even a communism with a human face, dominated by "noble and generous" activists?

P.S. I recall the answer of a student at the Polytechnic Institute, who, during a TV program in which she was snapped at by Mr. Roman, said: "It does not matter, we have the vote in our hands!"

People Warned Against 'Democratic Mimicry'

AU2304171890 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 13 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Apostol Stan article: "The Social Basis of Neocommunism"]

[Excerpts] The post-Ceausescu Romanian society witnesses an extraordinary phenomenon of political mimicry and an attempt of the former privileged class to use the achievements of the democratic revolution of December 1989 to its own advantage. First, the number and structure of this political class has to be defined, a class that is undeniably guilty of perpetuating an oriental-type of tyranny blocking any kind of opening to liberation in the years of reformist communism in Eastern Europe.

Many unjustifiably confuse this former privileged class with the almost four million party members, which is a serious mistake. [passage omitted]

Apart from the broad nomenklatura made up of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party] heads in the Central Committee and its sections, including the county and municipal first party secretaries, there was a plethora of activists. [passage omitted]

All lower ranks in the nomenklatura benefited not only from good wages, but especially from power. [passage omitted] In one way or another, all these people regaled themselves with privileges in a society suspicious of all kinds of shortages. The Securitate and the secret political police—through which, in the final analysis, domestic terror was preserved and a totalitarian communist regime was perpetuated by discouraging, intimidating, and crushing any attempt to dispute their legitimacy—were also a privileged class. [passage omitted]

Thus the totalitarian communist regime was not a diabolical projection of a paranoid mind—as it was often said—but a social system based on privileges. Its adepts were recruited from various categories of people, usually from among those with precarious professional training and moral faults. How big was such an apparatus? Without having exact data at hand, it can be estimated to have been approximately one million. [passage omitted]

What are the prospects today of those from the former political classes who desire power? From their point of view, what they are interested in is to save the structures that justify their usefulness and to avoid the dreadful prospects—opened by the revolution—of being pushed to the periphery because of the uselessness of their bureaucratic functions. [passage omitted]

Obviously, the former political class is a factor that hampers the development process. It views the National Salvation Front as the most appropriate form of expressing its conservation instinct. Its optimism is based on the current political confusion in the country stemming not only from a communist ideological intoxication, but also from cultivating it deliberately.

Public opinion must not let itself be fooled by the democratic mimicry of a political class which through its past, training, mentality, and aspirations cannot be up to the revolution's requirements.

Need To Restore Romanian Television Noted

AU2304173490 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 12 Apr 90 p 2

[Maria Dragomir article: "A Secret Report on the Forth Power—Razvan Teodorescu: I Am Directly Dependent on Mr. Iliescu"]

[Text] Talks between the members of the Group for Social Dialogue and some members of the Civic Committee for the Independence of Romanian Radio Television [RTV], set up a month ago, were held recently at the headquarters of the Group for Social Dialogue.

"In view of the May elections," said Engineer Sorin Buse "we were surprised to note that television, this fourth power in the state, does not reflect our country's major problems and the only "palpable" thing that has been achieved so far was that the complete text of the "Timisoara Proclamation" of 18 March 1990 was presented on that station (although only days later). Likewise, we noted —said the same member of the Civic Committee for RTV independence—that this public relations committee, set up by the radio-television, as a matter of fact, is a true "elephants' graveyard" for the former party secretaries and other activists, that it has not carried out any of the personnel changes that we demanded, not even for those who appear on the station and who compromised themselves, and the RTV leadership confronts us with the problem of our "representation" or "legitimacy." Mr. Razvan Theodorescu, who a week ago was still enchanted by the thought of receiving us as members of committees for RTV's renewal (such as the committee for contact with the president of that institution, the committee for employing personnel, and the juridical commission, respectively, and the committee for reexamining the law according to which RTV is functioning) has made a great step backwards. It is worth mentioning in this context the story which Mr. Stelian Tanase, chief editor of the publication "22" issued by the Group for Social Dialogue, told about a telephone conversation that he had recently with the current RTV president. To the question of why the reporters' team did not go to Victory Square on that memorable day of 18 February earlier than it did, only when the hooligans had already launched an attack on the government headquarters, Mr. Razvan Theodorescu said literally: "I am directly dependent on Mr. Iliescu."

Jurist Eugen Vasiliu, also a member of the Civic Committee for RTV's independence, explained that at the moment we lack the juridical framework to ensure the independence of this institution and holds the view that RTV should be submitted to a parliamentary commission and the Civic Committee should take the place of the former RTV's National Committee, which evidently has not fulfilled its role.

"Even if the government spends money for the functioning of RTV, said philosopher Thomas Kleininger, it is still not compulsory for RTV to reflect only the government's position."

A senior member of the Civic Group for RTV's Independence requested the Group for Social Dialogue to make a list of "indisputable" persons who can be proposed for the three most important commissions of restoring the most important means of mass communication.

Army To Defend Homeland, Avoid Politics

AU2304195490 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 0400 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Generals, officers, military experts, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Romanian Army have asked ROMPRES to broadcast the following:

Through tradition, the Romanian Army has been and, through its goals, it will remain the defender of the people and homeland. Thus, it should not be involved in (?ideological) or political issues. It is the hope of the nation at difficult times in history, as it was during the war of independence, in the war of uniting the nation, in World War II, and during the days of the December 1989 revolution.

The Army is at the people's side because it was born from the people, while the people have to support, with all their might, the Army and be united with it. The Army must not and does not want to serve a party, government, or political formation and neither should it be used to promote group interests that may be at variance with the people's aspirations, thus destabilizing the country's political and social activity.

The Army does not want to be involved in policy-making nor should it be attracted to political activity by roundabout ways through the exercise of the right to vote, something it did not do before 1945.

The cultivation of the heroic traditions and of military honor, instruction with modern combat equipment, and the establishment of sincere relations of camaraderie between soldiers and commanders is the best means of military training—proven on battlefields in the past.

Only the elected representatives of the nation in parliament have the right to order the Army to defend the country under conditions specifically stipulated in the Constitution.

The Army dissociates itself from all those who worked to preserve Ceausescu's dictatorial regime, the communist dictatorship, but not from those who, as simple fee-paying members of the Romanian Communist Party, endured, together with the people, humiliations and the sufferings to which the rulers subjected them. At the same time, the Army does not tolerate [words indistinct] and to maintain among its ranks those whose military and patriotic honor was harmed through undignified deeds, through imposture, and professional incompetence.

The Army is the country's shield of hope and has to be viewed as such because of its moral cohesion stemming from the unity of will and support of the whole people. Expressing support for the Army, the whole nation will contribute to building the new structure of this institution in the spirit of its glorious military traditions.

Signed on behalf of the Action Committee for the Democratization of the Army by Lieutenant Colonel Cornel (Surcu); Major Octavian (Chiriac); and Major Nicolae (Cirligean).

Iliescu Visits Calarasi Units, Addresses Group

AU1904132890 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Ion Iliescu this morning visited (?Orsova), Calarasi County. The president of the Provisional National Unity Council met with the staff of the cotton spinning mill, of the enterprise for the production and processing of vegetables and fruits, and of the shipyard.

A short time ago, a meeting was held in the center of the city which was attended by thousands of residents of this city on the Danube. In his speech, Mr. Ion Iliescu emphasized the need to unite all democratic forces to restore the national economy.

We want, Mr. Ion Iliescu said, to found a democracy that will have its roots in our country's soil, that will be in the interests of our citizens, and that will exert control over those who will give us their mandate.

Timisoara Trial Adjourns Until 7 May

AU2004162790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1733 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—The trial against former Securitate officers charged with acts of terrorism in Timisoara over December 16-25, 1989 continued in that town. Twenty-one persons are charged with complicity to genocide, abetting of genocide and other offences. The trial, which started on March 2, continued on April 20 when prosecution witnesses were heard in the case of defendant Iosif Veverca, a former judiciary major, who is one of the 21 in the defendants' box but who is also tried separately on charges of aggravated murder. He machine-gunned a group of demonstrators and killed an 18-year-old man.

The court adjourned until May 7.

Roman Chairs Meeting on Market Economy

AU2004201790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1925 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—In its April 20 meeting chaired by Prime Minister Petre Roman, the Romanian Government discussed and approved a draft programme for the transition to a market economy and a draft resolution on decentralization measures and the organization of economic units on the basis of free association. The agenda also included a report on the activity of the Romanian Institute for Public Opinion Polls and a report on research guidelines in atomic physics in 1990 and over 1991-1995.

Makes Statements

AU2104163790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0907 GMT 21 Apr 90

["Statements by Romania's Prime Minister"—ROMPRES Headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/4/1990—At the end of the 20 April meeting of the government, Prime Minister Petre Roman answered questions of a ROMPRES reporter in connection with the draft programme of transition to the market economy in Romania.

As I have specified during the meeting, this is a study initiated by the government, Mr. Roman said. It became an outline of the transition to the market economy which is not a programme but a set of governmental measures in this direction. The fundamental idea from which we started was that of the profitability of all economic activities which should yield maximum profits with the present economic and technical potential and by taking into account the world practice. This actually means that the fundamental question is that of economic management since no management can be conceived outside the framework within which the main economic mechanisms operate. As a matter of fact this is an economic openness, which we can consider as exceptionally broad, immense as compared to the situation in which we were, of hypercentralized economy.

This means that we have to start with a number of governmental instruments, which are legal, financial and social. There is the legal framework of the transition to a market economy which means the setting up of various types of private ventures, means the appropriate laws for the types of properties that associate within this economy. Referring in the same context to the social security programme the prime minister stated inter alia: one of the most important conclusions of the government's meeting is that this outline tries a formula which does not copy any of the models operational in Eastern or Western Europe, a formula that takes into account the social cost and tries to cover it from the beginning. This is extremely important. Of the eight variants this study advances as conclusions one may note that at least two—the so-called moderate ones, which were most favourably received by the government members—stipulate precisely this possibility of starting covering the social cost concomitantly with the transition, and this is possible if every sector, every economic unit pass on to reequipment to make its activity profitable. Those units or even sectors which do not find partners to provide them an outlet and are not profitable cannot be maintained. There are sectors that can be actually turned profitable—like tourism, the food industry, public catering, although it seems there are others as well, such as aviation—and with them as a basis there might be a chance to cover the social cost without too big a damage for the social vocation of this programme. It will be published in a relatively abridged version because we do not consider it—as I have said—a programme.

Concluding his considerations on the transition to the market economy Prime Minister Petre Roman stressed that it was only an economy with such elements as competition, and free initiative that could raise the population's standard of living, as everybody wishes.

Hungarians Telephone Calls Said Not Bugged

AU2004160490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1454 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Answer to an Accusation"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—In reply to the false accusations made by Mr. Tivadar Parvi, spokesman for Hungary's National Security Office, on the alleged "interception" of telephone conversations of the leaders of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, Mr. Paul Jerbas, chairman of the PNUC [Provisional National Unity Council] organizational commission, stated the following:

1. To dismantle fully and for ever the listening devices belonging to the former Securitate is known to have been one of the earliest measures that the new authorities took after the revolution, and about it Romanian and international public opinion was informed at length.

2. Under these circumstances, Mr. Tivadar Parvi's statement—apart from failing to reflect the reality—appears to me all the more serious and surprising as it affirm?, black on white, that the information was supplied by "a high Romanian functionary whose assertions are as a rule (underscoring ours) very reliable."

Before anything else, this suggests neither more nor less that the Hungarian security service has a high-level source of information in the Romanian administration (exclamation) I would have understood the revelation of the source for a piece of information that were at least in part truthful, but not for a gross untruth.

3. Moreover, in spite of the repeated assurances that there would be no "special relationship" between the Budapest authorities and the leaders of the Hungarian minority in Romania, it strikes me as odd, to say the least, the "concern" of the Hungarian security service with the "safety" of the communications of those leaders.

4. Finally, the seriousness of Mr. Tivadar Parvi's accusation appears to me to be all the greater as its falseness directly involves the Romanian state leadership, which is in open violation of elementary international practice.

Generally speaking, would it not be better for the Hungary's National Security Office to show this "concern" vis-a-vis its own practice—which is real, as it was publicly proved—of intercepting the conversations of Hungary's opposition leaders?

Could this be just a reflex of one's own behaviour? Paul Jerbas asks in conclusion.

C. Coposu on Policy Toward German Minority

AU2004175990 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 14 Apr 90 p 8

[Article by Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasants Party-Christian Democratic: "The Policy Promoted by the National Peasants Party-Christian Democratic Toward the German Minority in Romania"]

[Excerpts] Over the past 800 years, the Romanian people, born from native Dacians and Roman colonizers, lived in brotherhood with the ethic Germans coming from Saxony, Flanders, and Swabia who colonized in Transylvania and Banat. Their peaceful coexistence throughout the years, unmarked by confrontation, was based on good understanding, calm, and peace. The presence of the Saxons and Swabians amidst the hospitable Romanian people undeniably exerted a beneficial influence on the Romanian peasants and tradesmen, who learned from their co-nationals systematized household skills, better farming and animal breeding methods, and higher skills in hand-made goods. The Saxons and Swabians were able to freely cultivate their language, creed, customs, and traditions; they studied in their own schools and contributed, to a great extent, to the culture and progressive development of the country that sheltered them as a genuine homeland. During the long periods—full of obstacles and troubles—of foreign domination in Transylvania, Romanians and their fellow Germans suffered together, took great pains together, and struggled together against injustice and oppression. [passage omitted on historical background]

In the Transylvanian revolution in the middle of the 19th century, the German leader [Stefan] Ludwig Roth symbolized—through his attitude and heroism—the German people's solidarity with the ideals and aims of the Romanian revolutionaries. In World War II, the Germans in Romania unanimously protested the fascist machinations which severed Transylvania temporarily from the common homeland.

In its first article, the Grand National Assembly decision of 1 December 1918 proclaimed: "Full ethnic freedom for all peoples living side by side. Each people will teach, administer, and think in its own language, through individuals coming from among its ranks, and each people will have the right to be represented in the lawmaking authorities and the country's government in a proportion matching the number of its individuals." This proclamation has been the basis of the policy toward minorities promoted by the National Peasants Party-Christian Democratic throughout its existence. [passage omitted]

Oppressed by the odious dictatorship of the Communists, a major part of the German people in Romania looked for freedom and for freeing themselves from the most cruel terror in our history by emigrating to West Germany. The National Peasants Party-Christian Democratic warmly calls on the Germans who have left our country and invites them—with brotherly love—to return to their native land which they were forced to leave; they should return to their Romanian compatriots who are waiting for them with open arms so that, together, by renewing the harmonious coexistence of their common past of eight centuries, they are able to contribute to brotherhood and to the advancement and progress of our country and people on the road to genuine democracy.

Corneliu Coposu

Expert Warns of Emergency in Agriculture

AU2004123890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0832 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/4/1990—Information from agriculture show that "serious states of affairs" appeared in this important branch of the Romanian economy after the revolution which can lead to a disaster as far as the population's supply is concerned unless firm and urgent measures are taken, writes Prof. C. Pintilie, chairman of the Romanian Society of Management, in an article in "ROMANIA LIBERA."

The greatest danger is the "drought which persists in the most important regions of the country, after a droughty winter." Adding to all this are "the abnormal states of affairs" created by the delays in the performance of farm operations, the unjustified giving up or the reduction of the areas cultivated with technical plants, which will result in a highly deficient supply of the population with sugar and edible oil, the reduction of the plots with maize and sunflower hybrids in the large farms which can pose the danger of not being able to provide the necessary quantities of seeds for next year. Moreover, we witness a particularly grave process of marginalizing and underrating the role of experts in agriculture and of not using them. While in the years of the dictatorship those working in agriculture were obliged to do what they were told to do, now, in conditions of economic democracy and freedom, what happens in agriculture is deeply worrying, since those who hold land do not understand to till it in time to feed themselves and the whole country.

But, writes the author, the disaster can be prevented, through the immediate irrigation, in one week at the most, of at last three of the 3.5 million hectares laid out for this purpose, using work force available in some industrial sectors as well as transport means of the respective territorial units. The village dwellers, vitally interested in the settlement of this problem, should temporarily give up dividing the irrigated land into individual plots, cancel the dissolution of producer cooperative farms made without the approval of the general assemblies of the cooperative farmers and avoid any problem that could generate tension in the rural area hampering them from tilling the land. In a nutshell, suggests the author, a kind of national state of emergency should be established in the Romanian agriculture under the current circumstances.

Some Investments Halted To Update Existing Units

AU2004121090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0919 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Economy: Investment Given Up in Metallurgy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/4/1990—While retechnologizing and modernizing the metal industry we decided to give up several investment works, stated the relevant minister, Mr. Ioan Chesa, in an interview with "TINERETUL LIBER."

A substantive analysis made us give up the building of the hot strip mill at the special steel combine in Tirgoviste, the refractory products works "Silica" of Macin, the basic refractory mill in Caransebes and the second fabrication flow at the metallurgical combine in Calarasi. The total investment funds thus released, that is 16-18 billion lei, will be used for the modernization and retechnologization of existing units. Operations will continue only with the first production flow which amounts to 1.8 million tonnes a year at the iron-and-steel combine in Calarasi.

The amount of money saved by stopping investment works will be used to update the steel and iron smelting units, replace Martin ovens by electric ovens or converters, improve continuous casting technologies and modernize rolling mills. The minister also showed that a program was under way for a broad international cooperation with prestigious metallurgical firms in Germany, France, USA, and Japan.

* Absence From Council of Europe Talks Deplored

27000012 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian
10 Apr 90 p 1

[Ilie Paunescu article: "Mr. Petre Roman and Europe"]

[Text] Saturday evening, television produced a surprise for us. In a supplement to the announced program, both Petre Roman and an important representative of the Mercedes-Benz company appeared [in separate clips].

It should be emphasized that the prime minister of Romania did not appear with Mr. Reuter, a prominent person in Germany, the son of the former mayor of Berlin at the time of the Soviet blockade of 1948 and current director of Mercedes-Benz. It also should be said that the head of government did not announce to us the conclusion of a mutually advantageous contract with the important German firm.

To the surprise of many television viewers, the Romanian prime minister was happy to inform us that our country was visited for about 24 hours by an assistant director of a large Western company and that that some sort of contract might be concluded in the rather distant future.

So what was the reason for Saturday evening's spectacle?

Because, in the full swing of the election campaign, Petre Roman believed that he found the opportunity to demonstrate that "we are preparing to become once more a civilized European country, a democratic country." Indeed we all want to return to Europe. This means, first of all, that we want to return to an area with values whose names are unacceptable for backward politicians: liberty, justice, tolerance, reason—in a word, a democracy which is not at all "original."

Unfortunately, the ideology and practices of Ion Iliescu and Petre Roman are not aimed at this. Will Europe accept us with such concepts and methods?

Recently, we were given a severe warning. Romania was the only country in Central and Eastern Europe which was not invited by the Council of Europe to its meeting in March in Lisbon. The Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria, all our neighbors, were invited into the hall. Only Romania remained outside, beyond the threshold. The Europe of freedoms did not want to talk to us, three months after a Revolution which gave us the right to be received with open arms in Lisbon. What happened in the meantime? What is Europe turning its back on: the country or its government?

The regime of Iliescu and Roman mumbled an excuse which seemed to be even more painful than the facts: The request to attend the meeting came too late. There was no explanation why this government—supposedly so anxious to rejoin Europe—allowed itself to delay in taking care of this formality. Nor did they tell us that the minister of foreign affairs, the one who bears the political responsibility for the smarting blame which Romania received from the rest of the continent, lost his job. Mr. Sergiu Celac is well known as a former supporter of Ceausescu. Did he really intend for us to be isolated once again?

Another question has even more serious implications. Even if it arrives late, a request for participation presented by a credible government should be taken into consideration. The simple fact that Romania was ignored under such conditions proves that, since the time of the December Revolution [the situation] has deteriorated to an alarming extent.

Beyond all doubt, the sad credit belongs exclusively to the Iliescu-Roman regime. This self-appointed government has given too many and too convincing pieces of evidence that: l) It is nothing but the continuation of the regimes of Ana Pauker, Gheorghiu Dej, and Nicolae Ceausescu, which multilated the appearance of the country, reduced it to poverty, and terrorized it with a diligence worthy of Stalin; and 2) that it is preparing only a mockery of an election so as to give an apparent legitimacy to the structures and methods which it is maintaining.

Mr. Petre Roman does not convince anyone when he proclaims, for the occasion, that he wants to return us to Europe. Everyone knows that the Europe of freedoms would open its doors to us only after truly free elections. For a prime minister who really wants Romania to return to Europe, the formula is simple: fewer television shows and more measures to guarantee free elections.

Campeanu Wants Romania To Be European Country

AU2004142290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
0930 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Election Campaign—Mr Campeanu: Romania Must Become A European Country"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—Romania's foreign policy will not change sensibly, opines Mr. Radu Campeanu. Only our relations with our old friends in the West will have to be deepened, developed. But this does not mean in any way even the slightest tendency of adversity to the Soviet Union.

The leader of the National Liberal Party made this statement during a call to ROMPRES news agency before registering his candidature for Romania's presidency, backed by several parties.

An equilibrated thinking on all planes—political, social, economic—is what future Romania needs, added Mr. Campeanu, so as to remove all the remnants of the past regime and definitely embark on the road of respect for the individual, of an authentic freedom of the Romanian nation.

Mr. Campeanu also stated that he believed in dialogue and recalled in context the decision he made about two months ago to initiate a dialogue with Mr. Iliescu, for which some criticized him, even vehemently. Others agreed with me, he added. Now I think that I did the right thing. If destiny will give me some power in Romania I will use it for the dialogue between all the Romanians to be civilized and fully free, for everyone to have his say and live his life without the fear of being monitored, without the fear of having to meet certain recommendations made by someone somewhere. I would very much like to contribute to the restoration of the human, and Romanian, values, to the economic prosperity of this country taken to its lowest limit by the irresponsibility and stupidity of the Marxist-Leninist conception. I am convinced that this country boasts the strength, values, capabilities able to lead it to a real prosperity.

Voicing his opinion that this prosperity will originate in the restoration of private property, Mr. Campeanu summed up his conception: I believe in the creation of this private sector as soon as possible, should it begin with the small industry, with the small trade or with services, or should it expand to the large enterprises. As the experience of the advanced countries shows, such an activity will absorb most of the unemployed, who exist today but are hidden under various social forms. This does not mean that Romania will not have a state-run sector, that the large industrial complexes, which every day inflict losses on this country, will have to be dismantled. An industrial reorientation will be pursued concomitantly with the setting up of smaller or medium-sized enterprises. This process of unleashing energies, which he considers to be fundamental, should be smooth and should not create complications for people. At the same time Mr. Campeanu spoke in favour of rural property.

The future of the Romanian people resides in the upbringing of its children, not only from a technical but also from a moral and intellectual point of view, with the help of the truth. And this upbringing should start immediately. Once we do it we will be certain that our future as a people is ensured, all the more so as this future will be a European one. I can see no other possibility for Romania to find its place, without taking part in the life of Europe, without becoming a European country, as it deserves, Mr. Campeanu stressed.

Spanish Government Offers $100 Million in Credit

AU2004182790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1723 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Diplomatic Activities: After the Romanian Premier's Visit to Spain"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/4/1990—With the new economic accords signed in Madrid during the visit of Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman as a basis, the Spanish Government offered Romania an initial credit worth 100 million dollars, said Mircea Mitran, deputy minister of foreign affairs, during a meeting with Romanian and foreign journalists at the press club in Bucharest on Friday, April 20.

The Romanian diplomat considered Premier Petre Roman's visit to Spain a major political act in Romania's relations after the revolution. The visit, he said, meets the two countries' identical options for the democratic development of Europe and the Romanian people's interest in having its economy updated and in passing on to a market economy. Mr. Mitran also said the visit yielded special results, everything that has been previously agreed upon by the two countries' foreign ministers during the Bucharest visit of the Spanish foreign minister having been materialized.

Delegate Addresses UN Commission Session

AU2004160890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1449 GMT 20 Apr 90

["Economy: Irreversibly Toward a Market Economy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/4/1990—Romania participates in the current session inspired by the wish to make its fundamental options known, which accord with the deep-going changes it has seen after the revolution. In his address, to the 45th session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe under way in Geneva, Romanian chief delegate, Ambassador Nicolae Iordache, underscored that his country committed itself to gradually, but firmly and irreversibly, passing from a centralized economic system to market economy, apt to provide both for its development and prosperity and for its growing participation in the world economy, in the international, European and sub-regional economic cooperation. In the current political and economic situation in Europe, he said, Romania thinks the UN-ECE's role in the future should be revaluated. In its opinion, the commission's activities should be streamlined toward domains of broader interest and of practical use for the member states' economies, toward raising the efficiency of its actions and projects. Such a revaluation should be made in the context of the changes taking place in

Eastern Europe for a market economy and in consideration of the need to set economic cooperation on new bases within the CSCE framework and space.

In Romania's opinion the commission should further contribute to deepening the all-European security process.

Romania suggested that in future the commission's activities should be channeled toward working out definitional accords of regulations and procedures to boost trade and industrial cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection through both a wider system of accords and regulations and the achievement of joint projects conducive to reducing pollution in key economic domains, the improvement and modernization of infrastructures and transport conditions in Europe, growing cooperation in agriculture, industry, science, technology, development of cooperation in other fields like direct foreign investment, joint companies, services, tourism, management and the quality of life.

In concluding his address, the Romanian chief delegate stated that, by advancing such proposals, Romania wished firmly to regain its European vocation taking its historical economic and cultural traditions as a basis.

Sergiu Celac Departs for New York UN Session

AU2204131590 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Sergiu Celac, minister of foreign affairs of Romania, this morning left for New York to attend a special UN session on international economic cooperation, particularly revitalizing economic growth, and on the development of the developing countries.

Daily Criticizes Secretary Baker's Remarks

LD2104160790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1512 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, Apr 21 (TANJUG)—In its issue for today the Zagreb VJESNIK daily accuses U.S. Secretary of State James Baker of "interfering in internal affairs of Yugoslavia" in his recent address to the U.S. Congress.

VJESNIK notes that, right during the multi-party elections in Slovenia and on the eve of such elections in Croatia, Baker stated in the U.S. Congress that the Yugoslav Government lacked authority that a central federal government should have and that Yugoslavia's republics were having too much of autonomy so that ethnic rivalries and nationalist trends may be sighted.

Baker's speech coincided with the Yugoslav republics' "wanting to redefine, in different ways to be sure, their mutual relations and their relations towards the federal state," VJESNIK writes.

The paper tells Baker that the Yugoslav republics "have neither too much or too little of autonomy, simply because they are sovereign."

The possible nationalist trends in Yugoslavia, says the paper, should not be blamed on too much of autonomy, but, on the contrary, on the attempts at having autonomy limited or abolished.

Drnovsek Comments on Role in Europe

LD2204145490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1116 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Madrid, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—Janez Drnovsek, president of the SFRY Presidency, stated that Yugoslavia "will peacefully be transformed into a multiparty community which counts upon becoming a member of the integrated Europe."

In this way, Drnovsek gave a negative reply to the question in EL INDEPENDIENTE on whether the processes in Slovenia could result in "Slovene nationalism which, together with the Croat one, would be a bomb which would tear the country to pieces."

Drnovszek stressed: "After the elections in some republics a discussion will continue on intrarepublican relations, and in the coming months we should reach a new agreement on the character of the Yugoslav state.

I hope that the country will become consolidated on the basis of democratic principles and economic efficiency which goes along with it, and therefore intranational relations will no longer be placed at the forefront. It is obvious that current intranational relations in the country are disturbed and it is necessary to strike a new balance in new political and economic conditions. The task is a difficult one, but all other options are much less favorable and more risky.

In the interview published in today's issue of Madrid's El INDEPENDIENTE, at the end of Drnovsek's working visit to Spain, the president of the SFRY Presidency drew attention to the outstanding results achieved in Yugoslavia regarding the implementation of reforms—the curbing of inflation, prices, costs, etc—and explained: "The reforms process has only just begun, and we expect that in the time ahead it will continue with increased intensity. In the first months of this year we have recorded a decrease in industrial production which had been expected. Realistic and personal incomes are also dropping and there has been an increase in the number of bankruptcies in the economy. We are aware of the fact that a certain number of workers will temporarily be out of work. Programs have been drawn up for attenuating the most acute social problems. Now that price stability has been achieved we must launch a new investment plan which will open up new prospects."

To accompany the text of the interview, this renowned Madrid newspaper also stressed that one of Yugoslavia's main priorities is to become closer to Europe and European economic associations, "though Yugoslavia remains in the Nonaligned Movement whose chairman it is."

Referring to Drnovsek's words the newspaper describes Yugoslavia's efforts to become as close as possible to the EEC; to participate in this form of cooperation, and also if at all possible to join the European Council as early as this year.

Drnovsek Arrives in Portugal for Talks

LD2204224290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2055 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Lisbon, April 22 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav State Presidency President Janez Drnovsek arrived in Lisbon tonight on an official two-day visit at the invitation of Portuguese President Mario Soares.

Tomorrow's talks between Drnovsek and Soares will focus on the promotion of bilateral cooperation, European processes and North-South relations.

We want to intensify relations between Portugal and Yugoslavia with this visit, Soares told TANJUG's correspondent here tonight.

Soares believes this is a favorable time for the intensification of relations between the two countries, in view of the new processes which have opened in Europe and the new phase the continent was entering.

I am sure that Portugal and Yugoslavia can successfully cooperate on third markets, for example in Africa, especially in southern Africa [words indistinct].

Drnovsek Talks With Spain's Prime Minister

LD2004204790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1718 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Madrid, 20 Apr (TANJUG)—The promotion of bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic sphere, as well as the latest European processes, associations, and restructuring, were the main topics in today's talks in Madrid between Janez Drnovsek, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. [passage omitted]

Most attention was devoted to European topics, events on the "old continent," especially in its central and eastern parts, and to prospects of future developments. Special emphasis was laid on Yugoslavia which, Drnovsek stressed, included among its priorities integration with Europe, especially a gradual inclusion in European associations. Spain was said to have given full support to Yugoslavia in its request to join the European Council. Considering the turn of events, as well as the processes of the consolidation of democratic and economic reforms in Yugoslavia, one would have to wait a long time for this. However, the Spanish side thinks that such a decision, even a preliminary one, could be passed by the end of the year. In any case, stressed Gonzalez, Yugoslavia can count upon Spain's support. [passage omitted]

Discussing these European topics, which are of vital interest for both countries, Drnovsek and Gonzalez laid emphasis on the Mediterranean issue, agreeing on the stand that the Mediterranean should also be included in the processes of European detente. [passage omitted]

After the talks Drnovsek and his host Gonzalez were driven to the Zarzuela royal residence, where the royal couple, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, gave a luncheon in honor of President Drnovsek. Talks were resumed in a cordial atmosphere.

This afternoon Janez Drnovsek, President of the SFRY Presidency, visited the famous Prado Museum in Madrid.

Horvat Discusses Trade Ties With Spain

LD2104140590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1300 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Madrid, April 21 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Government member and Minister for Foreign Trade Relations Franc Horvat held talks with government officials of economic departments and Spanish businessmen in Madrid today. They discussed concrete ways of linking the economies and markets of the two countries.

The Spanish businessmen were interested in the extent to which the Yugoslav market and the Yugoslav legal "infrastructure" were ready to accept foreign capital, either through direct investments, joint firms, or some other, higher, forms of economic cooperation.

During the talks, the idea about the founding of a mixed, Yugoslav-Spanish bank was also discussed. The bank's primary task would be to stimulate and facilitate these joint investments which are attracting increasing attention from Spanish businessmen.

The common bank, which would be founded by business banks from Spain and Yugoslavia, could also serve to stimulate Spanish business in other countries in central and Eastern Europe, an area which highly interests Madrid.

A delegation of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by a group of businessmen, will visit Yugoslavia already next month with the primary task of opening wider perspectives for Spanish joint investments in Yugoslavia.

Horvat last night also held talks with officials of the ministry of the economy, who, like Prime Minister Gonzalez, believe that its course of current reforms towards a market economy put Yugoslavia at a certain advantage regarding other Eastern and Central European countries, where the joining of European integration processes is concerned.

Official Outlines Exemptions to Currency Exchange

LD2004215290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1422 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 20 Apr (TANJUG)—Travelers from East European countries who have proof that they are entering Yugoslavia as tourists, on business, in transit, in possession of diplomatic passports and documents for local border trade, as well as persons under 14 years of age, will be exempt from changing $200 into dinars on entering the country. The decision on mandatory exchange comes into effect at midnight tonight.

As explained at a news conference, tourists may prove the purpose of their visit by showing vouchers, and business travel will include sport and organized scientific and cultural visits. This obligation will also not apply to students from these countries who are studying in Yugoslavia, or to married couples where one spouse is a Yugoslav citizen.

An invitation to East European citizens to visit Yugoslavia will not, however, be acceptable for exemption, explained Jeka Komazec, assistant federal secretary for finance, replying to a question by news agency correspondents from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union.

It was also stated that the latest—temporary—decision of the Federal Executive Council will be revised if necessary by introducing new exemptions or completely different solutions. [passage omitted]

Markovic Meets With Trade Union Leader

LD1904220290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1913 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Apr (TANJUG)—Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic and President of the Yugoslav Trade Union Federation Council Andjelko Vasic held talks today on the results of the economic reform in the first three months of the year, and particularly on the burdens on the economy and its liquidity, on social property, the distribution of personal incomes, and collective agreements.

Considering the positive results in bringing down inflation, Markovic said, it will not be necessary to "keep" for long the law on the temporary limitation of personal incomes, but it will only be changed when there is a suitable replacement for it. The collocutors agreed that the basis for these changes must be collective agreements, most importantly their drafting within branches of the economy, the Information Secretariat FEC reports.

The process has also begun of transforming social property into social capital, which must be adequately valued. Changes in the structure of capital and new money are also essential. Since it is to be expected, Markovic said, that the reform changes will bring with them the problem of a surplus work force in the economy, the most important thing now is to create the bases for a new development cycle which would facilitate change in the economic structure by allowing into it small and medium enterprises and contractors. It is estimated that in such enterprises there will be room for the employment of up to 2,000,000 workers.

Meets With Businessmen

LD2004204890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1633 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Rijeka, 20 Apr (TANJUG)—Recent demands for changing the exchange rate of the dinar and the monetary framework have no real basis. Approaching the second half of the year will be just a matter of counting the day's, that is, there will be no stress since, above all, we have created a sound basis for this by amassing hard currency reserves.

Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic stressed this in Rijeka this afternoon during his talks with about 150 businessmen from the Rijeka nad Istria region. In addition to representatives of the federal government, representatives of the Assembly of Croatia and the Executive Council of the Assembly of Croatia, headed by its president, Antun Milovic, also took part in the talks. "You must," Markovic said, "direct your attention as much as possible toward putting to use the untapped reserves in your firms because they are considerable."

In response to a number of questions posed by the businessmen, the FEC president said that it is most necessary to change old habits. We all have to "restructure" ourselves and adjust to the new systemic and market demands. Last month, out of 30 or so demands for changing the prices, only one was for a price increase. This bears witness to the fact that the old ways of behavior are changing, although slowly, and that there is a good chance of reducing inflation to the agreed level, that is, to the rate of one percent a month. We are resolute in implementing our reformist program. The fact that we have set out on the best route to attain this as quickly as possible is already being confirmed in practice and is also acknowledged by the world, Markovic said.

Markovic sees the developmental prospects of this area, where shipbuilding and tourism are well-developed, in the quicker development of small and medium-sized firms with 10 to 200 employees. They alone, he said, can employ 1.5 to 2.5 million new workers in the next few years, provided of course that the maximum domestic efforts are exerted and also that foreign financial support is forthcoming.

Speaking about the unfavorable structure of the economy and capital, Markovic said that maximum efforts should be invested in restructuring the economy and motivating entrepreneurship. As for the settlement of banks' fictitious accounts, the changing of the unfavorable structure of capital is under way as is, with foreign experts' help, the consolidation of the banking system. In doing all this we do not think about printing "fresh money" for these purposes, although it is indispensable, but rather about securing it in an economic way. Replying to a question about the changes to the taxation system, Markovic said that the government is advocating a consistent and protective system, but also a motivating one, which will facilitate qualitative development as much as possible.

The Federal Government president agreed with businessmen who were complaining that interest rates are still to high. We are speeding up, he said, the prerequisites—not administrative but economic ones—for reducing interest rates as soon as possible. Pointing to the sharp rise in exports—in the first three and a half months exports were up by 30 percent compared with the same period last year—and hard currency reserves which exceed $8 billion, Markovic called on businessmen to embark even more resolutely on implementation of the reform. He forecast a sharp rise in monetary and credit sources in the second half of the year, which will facilitate a new and, as he said, more healthy and quicker development.

Finally, President Ante Markovic received the winners of the "Seeking the Best Working Organization" award, organized by VECERNJI LIST of Zagreb, the Municipal Community of Rijeka, and the economic chambers of Rijeka and Istria. This year's winners are the Viktor Lenac maintenance shipyard of Rijeka and the Rovinj tobacco factory.

New Yugoslav Democratic Party Founded

LD2204180390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1344 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Summary] Banja Luka, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Democratic Party has been founded in Banja Luka. It will fight for democracy, AVNOJ [Antifascist Council of the National Liberation of Yugoslavia] and a federative Yugoslavia, a law-governed state and the implementation of the Federal Executive Council measures. It will also insist on the abolition of the SFRY Presidency and of the presidencies of the republics and provinces, proposing instead the introduction of one president who would be elected by the people in free general elections.

LC Organs Within Federation To Be Disbanded

LD1904170290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1143 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 19 Apr (TANJUG)—The committee of basic organizations of the League of Communists [LC] in the organs and organizations of the federation will observe the Federal Executive Council's [FEC] decision on depoliticizing federal administrative organs, and will, in a reasonable period of time, disband all basic LC organizations in the federal organs and institutions. In cooperation with the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] Central Committee, the parent organization, the committee will find a way to satisfy those LC members who work in these organs and [words indistinct] affiliation to the Yugoslav LC.

This was stressed today by Milorad Kozlovacki, secretary of the Presidium of the basic LC Committee organizations in the federation, during his talk with TANJUG, and in response to the FEC's recent conclusion about the need to depoliticize federal administrative organs.

We have calmly received the FEC's decision to start disbanding LC organizations in federal organs and institutions. However, this whole "operation" should be carried out in an organized way and within a set period of time. [passage omitted]

Tudjman Favors Independent Croatia

AU2104200090 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 21 Apr 90 p 5

[Report on interview with Franjo Tudjman, leader of the opposition movement "Croatian Democratic Community," by Kurt Seinitz; place and date not given: "Croatia Wants To Join Europe as a Free Nation"]

[Text] Franjo Tudjman (68), who was a partisan hero, Tito's youngest general, and a dissident and political prisoner, is now the leader of the national party "Croatian Democratic Community" (HDZ). NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG editor Kurt Seinitz spoke with the Croatian opposition leader.

—On democratization: "It must be carried out in every Yugoslav republic. Real democratic pluralism in every republic and real democratic dialogue would be the last chance to achieve a new form of living together and to find a just solution to the nationality issue in Yugoslavia."

—On the process of disintegration in Yugoslavia: "If we do not succeed in achieving democratic reconciliation, the individual republics should become independent and talk about good-neighborly relations. It is interesting that Serbs and Croats lived together in this region for centuries without any problems. It was only after the creation of the Yugoslav state that hatred and struggle erupted. At no point after the founding of the state were the different ethnic groups asked whether they wanted to live together in a common Yugoslav state. In Scandinavia, too, there were struggles as long as efforts persisted to create a common Scandinavian state. Now they are living peacefully side by side as independent states. I am in favor of the Scandinavization of the Balkans!":

—On Croatia's goals: "We want to join Europe as a free nation! Our roots are there! This is where we belong!"

Croatian Election Campaign, Parties Viewed

AU2104195390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 14-15 Apr 90 p 2

[Seada Vranic article: "Three Versions of 'Real Democracy'"]

[Text] There is only a week until the first multiparty elections in Croatia (since the war) and the uncertainty about their outcome is not a bit less than it was at the beginning of the campaign two months ago. The only thing one can say for sure is that the race will be led by "three horses" and that—at least according to all opinion polls conducted so far—not a single one of the total of 26 parties which have put up their candidates is going to get close to them. Moreover, the opinion polls are not giving them more than 7 percent of the votes, which is the lowest limit for going to the second round. In any case, the final outcome will be known only in the second round, when one of the three favorites—the Croatian Democratic Bloc (with the Croatian Democratic Community [CDC] as its center), the LCC [former initials of the League of Communists of Croatia]—Party of Democratic Changes, or the Coalition of National Understanding which consists of eight parties— may perhaps prevail.

By the way, these three above-mentioned party groups have done everything they could to create their election image. They presented their programs and—one may say—revealed their trump cards, so the only thing left to them is to try to gain points from blunders they expect their rivals to make.

If voters make up their minds according to the parties' election programs, the communists will have the most peaceful time expecting the outcome of the vote. The Party of Democratic Changes has offered the most perfectly elaborated economic and social program and a (peaceful) transformation into pluralist parliamentary society with the state based on the rule of law, a market economy, guaranteed civil freedoms and rights, and the original sovereignty [izvorni suverenitet] of the republic within a democratic Yugoslav federation. The party has high-quality election lists, so if names of candidates should play the decisive role, this party will probably fare extremely well. It did not succumb to sentimental feelings about "old cadres", so the lists include people with impressive biographies and results in the fields of science, the economy, and culture. There was also no sectarian attitude toward noncommunists, so the lists also include many people who are not members of the party.

Flaunting Nationhood

The other two political groups—the CDC as the backbone of the Croatian Democratic Bloc (including Stjepan Herceg's Christian Party, [Ivan Zvonimir] Cicak's branch of the Croatian Peasants Party, the Croatian Party of Justice [Hrvatska Stranka Prava], and the Croatian Party) and the Coalition of National Understanding (the Social Liberals, the Christian Democrats, the Croatian Democratic Party, the Peace Lovers, the Croatian Peasants Party, the Muslim Party, the Democratic Alliance of Albanians, and the Social Democrats) do not have such firm economic and social programs at all. Their candidate lists are also not as strong as that of the Party of Democratic Changes, something which is no surprise in the case of the CDC, but does surprise at least a little in the case of the Coalition of National Understanding because, the leading people in the party aside, the rest are little-known names. The absence of main favorites, first of all Savka Dabcevic-Kucar and Miko Tripalo, can probably be explained by possible later combinations involving other posts. Most analysts expect the elections to proceed in an atmosphere of "high politics" with topics such as the nation, sovereignty, statehood, and confederation-federation. They also expect the voters to realize only afterward that they have been cheated, because faced with the gloomy economic and social reality, they will see then that from the point of view of an ordinary person, the nation, the state, and sovereignty are completely abstract terms. However, it would be unfair to blame citizens for that, because the "elevated topics" have been imposed on them, and the parties have certainly counted on the tension produced by the national spirit, so they mostly flaunted their nationhood in their campaign.

Fragile Alliance

Certainly, the national aspect is used the most by the two markedly Croatian blocs. However, while the Coalition of National Understanding has a less aggressive approach—although its resoluteness in stressing national sovereignty is equal to that of the CDC—Franjo Tudjman's bloc knows no obstacles. Some people have already called Franjo Tudjman "Croatian Milosevic" because his approach is energetic and precludes any criticism, and his rhetoric, which is comprehensible to ordinary people, raises the temperature and foments national emotions wherever he goes. Moreover, Tudjman's party exhibits an extremely strong self-discipline, so its methods resemble the already outdated Bolshevik system, something that the rival Coalition of National Understanding makes use of, accusing Tudjman of totalitarianism. However, the CDC pays no attention and puts its demands, particularly the inexorable national sovereignty, unconditionally, not allowing anybody else the right to anything "Croatian".

As we have already said, until recently, the Coalition of National Understanding matched Tudjman with an equally resolute demand for the defense of national sovereignty, but its approach was more measured and its rhetoric milder, so it seemed that this bloc could attract many voters, not only because of the charisma of former politicians, Tripalo and Kucar, but also as a "golden mean" between the reformed left and the rightist CDC. However, there have been some deviations within the Coalition recently, first about the ban on abortion, so the leadership had to neutralize this before the public. There were also statements by leaders of the Croatian Democratic Party, the "most national" among the partners in the Coalition, so some analysts assess that Tripalo and Savka Dabcevic-Kucar have repeated their mistake of 20 years ago when they allowed Djodan and Veselica to join them, and their extremism speeded up the political fall of the communist pair. However, this time it was Savka and Tripalo who through their doubtless authority made possible the establishment of the program minimum and the unity of at first four and now eight coalition partners.

Knowing that Tudjman's aggressively marked Croatism is taking away from them not only some possible supporters and voters, but also even complete party wings, the Veselica brothers, leaders of the Croatian Democratic Party, have now launched an all-or-nothing attack, forgetting that minimum-level agreement to which they are obliged as partners in the Coalition of National Understanding. Thus, Marko Veselica exaltedly said in Sibenik recently that "no kind of Yugoslavia is our aim" (unlike the Coalition which counts on "any kind of Yugoslavia") and his brother Vladimir said in Zagreb, equally exaltedly, that in realizing a sovereign Croatia "nothing can stop them and that they will use all means." These deviations only confirm some people's assessments that the Coalition is a very fragile alliance and that there may be frictions and even divisions in it after the elections and possibly even before the second round.

Of course, the other two rivals are not invulnerable either. It has already become a classic remark to accuse the CDC for "a general's democracy," Bolshevist intentions, and totalitarianism and followers and members of the Coalition of National Understanding have launched a real barrage of attacks against Tudjman. Thus in a letter to VJESNIK, Zvonko Ivankovic-Vonta, great supporter of the Coalition, imputed to the CDC links with the most extreme Ustasha emigrants in America and Canada and even with terrorists. Even before this—and following the well-known first general assembly of the CDC in the Zagreb Lisinski Hall—the Party of Democratic Changes deemed the CDC as "the party with dangerous intentions."

The Communists' Achilles heel is the burden of power they were wielding for 45 years, and in the time before these elections Racan's party is being made to pay for the bills run up by all ruling groups, including those whose members or powerful leaders are now members of the parties of the opposition.

Istria Is Dictating the Outcome

The preelection map of Croatia would probably be incomplete if one failed to mention other parties which will appear on it. First of all one should mention the European Green List whose backbone is the Radical Association for the United States of Europe (along with several green parties and associations), which will run at the elections with a small number of selected candidates and will put forth civilizational values, above all ecology, civil rights and freedoms, and integration into Europe as their aim. It is interesting that, according to opinion polls, this "small coalition" fares worse today than it did one month ago, which is probably the result of strong politicization and an eruption of national spirit. The former Socialist Alliance, now a party called the Alliance of Socialists, does not fare particularly well in election forecasts, the reasons probably being a delay in its own transformation and joining the election campaign at the last minute. The chances of the Social Democratic Alliance of Croatia—Yugoslavia are probably small for the time being, and the situation with the Party of Yugoslavs is similar.

It is interesting that election polls have given little chance to Dr. Jovan Raskovic's Serbian Democratic Party, but they could prove to be unreliable in this case, because the polls were conducted in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, and Osijek, ignoring the Knin Region and Lika, where Raskovic counts on more votes. Anyway, it will be interesting to analyze the results of the vote in "Serbian regions," because the so-called Serbian question was very strongly stressed during the election campaign.

Finally, Istria is also a special phenomenon and a specific region which has a long multiparty tradition (since the Austro- Hungarian Monarchy). Because the Istrian Democratic Assembly [Istarski Demokratski Sabor], which many people consider to be the greatest favorite among parties, will not appear at elections, votes will probably be divided among the three largest party groups—the LCC—Party of Democratic Changes, the Coalition of National Understanding, and Tudjman's bloc. The last one has the poorest standing in Istria, which is shown in the opinion polls, as well as the recent meeting in Pazin, where Tudjman was literally booed down.

The forthcoming elections will solve all these dilemmas. Voters will decide which party or bloc should go to the Assembly. In any case, this will represent the expression of the democratic will of the citizens of Croatia and that will should be accepted whether one likes the final results or not.

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DANAS Carries Poll on Croatian Elections

AU2004153190

[Editorial Report] Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian on 17 April on pages 5-7 carries a 3,000-word report by Dejan Jovic concerning forthcoming elections in Croatia, entitled "Tudjman, Racan, or Savka."

The poll was a "written poll" and was conducted by a DANAS research team among 1,126 people in Zagreb, Osijek, and Pula between 5 and 10 April. Among other things, Jovic gives the following information about the sample of pollees:

"Out of 447 pollees in Zagreb, 78.75 percent are Croat nationals, 6.49 percent Serbs, 6.26 percent stated they are Yugoslavs, 4.45 percent failed to answer the question on nationality, while other nationals and those who declared no national affiliation make up about 3 percent. Among Zagreb pollees there are 179 women. Most of the people are between 25 and 50 years old (69.13 percent). Members of no party make up 82.1 percent, 10.51 percent are members of the LCC [initials of the former League of Communists of Croatia]—Party of Democratic Changes, 5.5 percent are members of the Croatian Democratic Community [CDC], and about 2 percent are members of other political organizations."

"In Pula there were 354 pollees of whom 178 were women. In the sample, there were 58.76 percent Croats, 5.93 percent stated their nationality as Serb; there were 21.75 Yugoslavs, about 2 percent Italians, 1.7 percent Muslims, while other nationalities and those who declared no national affiliation make up about 9 percent. A percentage of 12.43 were members of the LCC—Party of Democratic Changes, 4.52 percent members of the CDC, 1.69 percent belong to the Istrian Democratic Assembly, 79.66 percent do not belong to any political organization, and 0.85 percent belong to other political organizations. People of the age between 25 and 50 make up 87.28 percent of the pollees."

"The poll in Osijek was conducted among 325 citizens. Croats constitute 73.54 percent of the sample, 4.93 percent Serbs, 17.23 declared themselves as being Yugoslavs, and about 4 percent of the sample are members of other nationalities and those who declared no national affiliation. Among Osijek respondents, 10.15 percent are members of the LCC—Party of Democratic Changes, 5.59 percent are members of the CDC, and 82.10 do not belong to any political organization. There were 188 women and the largest number of pollees were middle-age."

The pollees were asked the following questions: "Will you take part in the forthcoming elections in Croatia? Do you think that you possess sufficient information to be able to vote? And, finally, which party leader and which party do you consider to be able to lead the republic most successfully after the elections?"

Later in the report Jovic assesses the response concerning party leaders and says that "asked about the name of a party leader who they think would lead the republic most successfully after the elections, the respondents have mostly written down the names of parties and much less the names of leaders. It is noticeable that the pollees see the political field as divided into three big wholes and political votes are mainly divided among Franjo Tudjman, Ivica Racan, and Savka Dabcevic-Kucar. Supporters of the National Understanding Coalition [CNU] also select Miko Tripalo along with Savka Dabcevic."

"The results of this poll show that it is not very probable that elections will be threatened by abstention," Jovic adds. "Asked whether they will participate in elections, less than one-tenth of respondents in all three towns answered that they would not."

The report presents the following response to the question within the body of the item: "Which party leader and which party do you consider to be able to lead the republic most successfully after the elections?" The results are given in percentages, all figures are as published.

Ivica Racan (LCC—Party of Democratic Changes): Pula 31, Osijek 30, Zagreb 20;

Savka Dabcevic-Kucar, Miko Tripalo (CNU): Osijek 19, Zagreb 18, Pula 9;

Franjo Tudjman (CDC): Zagreb 36, Osijek 24, Pula 17;

I do not know, no party: Pula 33, Zagreb 25, Osijek 23.

Multiparty Elections Begin Throughout Croatia

LD2204080290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0609 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—The first round of the first postwar multiparty elections began at precisely 0800 [0600 GMT] this morning throughout Croatia.

At about 8,000 polling stations 3,556,563 voters will elect deputies and representatives of local community councils, municipal assemblies, the Chamber of Municipalities and the sociopolitical Chamber of the Croat Assembly. All residents of Croatia who are eligible to vote will today and tomorrow elect 11,435 deputies for councils of 115 municipalities, the Zagreb City Assembly, and also deputies for all the three assembly chambers among over 28,000 candidates. Candidates were put forward by altogether 49 political and other organizations including the 33 political parties officially registered in the republic over the past several months.

The voters' response has been very good right from the beginning. The first incomplete information on the elections results regarding deputies in the Croat Assembly—the Sociopolitical Chamber and the Chamber of Municipalities—will be announced at midnight, while the complete results will be known at 1100 [0900 GMT] tomorrow.

Irregularities Reported

AU2204180490 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] There is a little less than 1 hour before polling stations in Croatia are closed. According to the information provided before 1400—the new information has not yet been published—more than 40 percent of the citizens eligible to vote have voted. Here is a report by Vesna Knezevic and Nebojsa Spajic:

[Knezevic] At the news conference which started shortly before 1800, Milko Gajski, president of the republican election commission, said that the elections are going relatively well. The biggest problems are caused by the incomplete lists of the electorate. In many places, especially Zagreb, Split, and Zadar, people are waiting in front of local registry offices for several hours to register their dwelling place. Most complaints regarding the course of the elections came from the Coalition of National Understanding.

[Spajic] According to the Coalition's information, in the Zagreb commune of Tresnjevka, the election lists do not include the names of the locals. A similar thing happened in Varazdin and some other places. [Name indistinct] has received a piece of information, according to which in Sisak 80 percent of those who have declared themselves as Croats were not invited to vote. There are also claims that, as regards mixed marriages, only Serbs were invited to vote. Bozo Kovacevic, head of the Coalition's joint commission, told us that the cadets in the Zadar military academy were also invited to vote, despite the fact that their permanent address is not in Croatia. He said that in the Zagreb commune of Vukomerec, certain individuals have been campaigning for the communists or socialists, despite the fact that propaganda has been banned since Friday night.

All this information is still unofficial.

Polls Close

LD2204193190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1816 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—After 12 hours of work, about 12,000 polling stations in 116 municipalities in the Socialist [SR] Republic of Croatia were closed at 2000 [1800 GMT] sharp.

The turnout of citizens at the polling stations is estimated, as the figures are still being compiled, at 70 to 75 percent. They elected 196 deputies to the Chamber of Municipalities and the Sociopolitical Chamber of the

Assembly of the Croatian SR, as well as those to the bodies of municipal assemblies and the city municipal community of Zagreb.

In some constituencies, the first unofficial and incomplete results of the elections are expected to become known in the first hours of 23 April. As early as 0500 [0300 GMT], the polling stations will open for elections to the Chambers of Associated Labor of the Croatian SR Assembly and of municipalities.

First Election Day Ends

AU2204205190 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Momcilo Boskovic report]

[Excerpts] In Croatia, where multiparty elections were held today, polling stations were closed some two hours ago. There is no exact information on the turnout of the 3 and ½ million citizens eligible to vote in Croatia. The first, unofficial results will be announced tonight about 2400.

According to the results which the republican election commission has so far, the turnout is good. The highest turnout was in Rijeka where by 1700 some 85 percent of the eligible population voted; then comes Delnice, with 80 percent; and Split, with 78 percent.

Many citizens of Croatia who work all over the world have come back to take part in elections. However, many of them have not announced their return which caused some problems. There were not enough ballots, so they had to be sent (?to some communes). There was a considerable number of those who, having traveled a long way, had to wait a long time to be issued a certificate of residence so they could vote.

This shortcoming was pointed out by Jadranko Crnic, president of the republican commission for supervising elections, at a news conference this evening. There were long lines in front of communal administration offices. [passage omitted]

Judging by what Mirko Gajski, president of the republican commission for elections, said tonight, incomplete results can be expected tomorrow night, while the final results may be available only on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Uneven Turnout Reported

LD2204221290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2059 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, 22 April (TANJUG)—Almost three hours after the polling stations were closed, the Republican Electoral Commission has not yet received the turnout figures from the municipalities of Knin, Rijeka, and Trogir. According to figures compiled by 1700 (1500 GMT) in the remaining 113 municipalities, 2,034,707 voters, accounting for 57.5 percent of the electorate, have cast their votes.

An exceptionally high turnout has been registered in the municipalities of Zlatar Bistrica, nearly 90 percent; Buzet, 87 percent; and Delnice 85 percent; while Kutina, Kardeljevo, Makarska, Slunj, Senj, and Vojnic also scored over 80 percent. It appears that a rather low turnout has been registered in the republic's bigger towns—Novi Zagreb 72 percent, Karlovac 71, Osijek 71.5 and Split 68. An exceptionally low turnout, according to official data, was registered in the electorates of Zadar, 17 percent; Sibenik, 28 percent; and Imotski, 29.5 percent.

The Office of the Republican Electoral Commission maintains that comprehensive results of the turnout are to be expected by the first hours of Monday 29 April.

Markovic Votes in Croatia; Comments on Elections

LD2304005790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2340 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, April 22 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government's economic reform program is acceptable to all in the country [words indistinct] has no reason to fear about the outcome of the elections in Croatia, Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic said here today, casting his vote at the first multi-party parliamentary elections in that republic.

Asked by journalists to predict the outcome of the elections, Markovic said that democracy would win in any case, and that the Federal Government was the most responsible for that since it initiated the adoption of documents in the Yugoslav Parliament which pave the way to democratization.

Asked about what would happen if pluralism was reaffirmed in Slovenia and Croatia but not in the other Yugoslav [word indistinct], Markovic said that would not have a direct influence on the Federal Government's decisions and that democratic elections would be held in the whole country by the end of the year. [words indistinct] not a government of the party, but a government of all Yugoslavs.

Democratic Union Leads in Croatian Elections

LD2304080690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0647 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, 23 April (TANJUG)—Out of the 80 constituencies of the sociopolitical chamber of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Croatia, only 33 had compiled their results by this morning. According to incomplete figures, candidates of the Croat Democratic Union [HDZ] have taken the lead in 20 constituencies, the Croat League of Communist-Party of Democratic Change [PDS] in 11, and the Coalition of National Accord [KNS] in two.

There are also incomplete results from 49 constituencies of the chamber of municipalities in the Croat Assembly. Candidates of the HDZ have won a majority of votes in

23 of these constituencies, those of the Croat League of Communist-PDS in 19, the KNS in five, and the Alliance of Socialists in two.

The first more comprehensive results detailing which candidates, and to which chamber, will have won over 50 percent of all votes, meaning that they will not have to contest in the second round, will be known at about 1100 [0900 GMT]. These will be the results of the contest for seats in the sociopolitical chamber of Croatia.

'Days May Pass' Before Croatian Election Results

AU2304132090 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Vesna Knezevic report on Croatian elections results]

[Text] As many as several days may pass before the final results of the first round of Croatian elections are given. According to the republican election law, election committees are obliged to present respective election commissions with data on elections by 1400 [1200 GMT] today. However, results will only be publicized by the respective election commission after all objections have been considered. The law does not specify the deadline by which the republican election commission should collect information from lower levels and present it to the public. Speaking at the news conference, which is under way, representatives of the election commission declined to give any forecasts or assessments of trends, because, as was said, all data published to date pertain to a small sample of counted votes, 16 percent for Chamber of Communities and 17 percent for the Sociopolitical Chamber.

Here are some communities in which, according to votes counted so far, the Croatian Democratic Community has a majority: Metkovic, Vinkovci, Zupanja, a part of Slavonski Brod, a part of Zagreb, a part of Zadar, a part of Split, Zabok, Krapina, Otocac, Sibenik, and Imotski.

The Communists have over 50 percent of the votes in a part of Rijeka and Sisak, in Daruvar, Glina, Korcula, Kostajnica, Labin, Orahovica, Petrinja, Titova Korenica, Vojnic, and (?Vrgovac). So far, Communists have not been faring better than the Croatian Democratic Community in any of Zagreb communes.

Pucnik, Kucan 'Optimistic' About Election Results

AU2104191190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Apr 90 p 3

[S. Sicarov report: "Optimism and Bitter Words"]

[Text] In its Saturday supplement, Ljubljana DELO carries a panel debate between Milan Kucan and Joze Pucnik, the two remaining candidates for the president of Slovenia, about whom voters will decide at the second round of elections on 22 April.

Both candidates are optimistic about the final outcome of the election. Kucan founds his optimism on opinion polls which show that most people want the process of democratization to continue. He thinks that he enjoys the people's confidence because the method of his work ensures a high degree of political and social security. Dr. Joze Pucnik is of the opinion that the election success of the associated opposition will favor him and that he will receive many more votes in the second round. According to him, "voters know that the League of Communists used to lead everything in Slovenia and they can distinguish between the positive development of the party and the aggravation of the economic crisis in Slovenia which threatens its independence."

The Twisted Logic of Demos

Both candidates are of the opinion that the present system cannot be "patched up" and that it needs thorough changes both in the legal-political and economic sense. Milan Kucan reproached Demos members for invoking anti-communism too much, for saying that everything will change with the elections, and for negating everything that happened in the past. According to him, this is a twisted Bolshevik logic.

Dr. Pucnik replied that this involves only the last four years when the Slovene Communists considerably increased Slovenia's obligations to the Federation. "The shortcoming of your party and you, who were its leader until recently, lies in the fact that the Slovene Assembly adopted several measures that harm Slovene economic interests. This is not the fault of Bolshevik predecessors in your party as these measures were adopted during your rule. The amendments to the Slovene Constitution were bravely formulated but they have not been effectively implemented because in some elements—with the agreement of Slovene Communists—the federal amendments prevent them from being implemented in the form of executive laws.

In reply to this criticism, Milan Kucan said that the Communists in the Assembly had not made bad decisions and that the Assembly has a pluralist composition, that is to say, the Slovene Communists do not represent the Slovene parliament, particularly not in the last four years since the 10th Congress of the League of Communists of Slovenia when the party's separation from the state began. Kucan added that not only bad things happened at that time and that "everything that was done had a legal foundation. We considered changes concerning the Yugoslav Constitution within the framework of the existing legal order. Behaving any differently would have meant presenting Yugoslavia with a fait accompli or ultimatum. Actually in working on the federal amendments we have been opening the door to political and economic changes in Slovenia and Yugoslavia, but a policy of ultimatums only creates a force that cannot resolve one single problem." Stating that changes in Slovenia are not only a matter for party initiatives, Kucan said that "a real democrat does not care who came up with an idea but whether an acceptable idea becomes a material force which can change relations."

Kucan's Responsibility

Dr. Pucnik reacted quite sharply to this: "Mr. Kucan, we are not talking about ultimatums here but about the constitutional rights of Slovenia to say no. You are, indeed, above parties, but you are also a member of both the League of Communists and the Socialist Alliance, and I wonder when you will be joining the Christian Democrats, the Greens, or even the Social Democrats in order to preserve your supra-party position. A person cannot so easily renounce the responsibility that they bear after having been in the leadership of a party for years and, therefore, responsible for the present crisis situation." Kucan replied that if he is elected as president of Slovenia he will immediately discard his party membership card, with all the consequences that this could have for the duration of his term of office.

Speaking about the future look of the Slovene political scene, Milan Kucan said that there is a great chance that it will separate into two blocks, which would give a chance to the initiative for a civil society to achieve greater political significance. In the opinion of Dr. Pucnik, three or four parties will remain in Slovenia after the elections. "Demos will be maintained as a coalition, until the basic provisions of its program are implemented, which are a change to the political system, a new constitution, and thereby an independent Slovenia.

Replying to a journalist's question on whether he would accept the responsibility for setting up the new government if he is defeated in the second round of the elections, Dr. Pucnik said that this is out of the question and that the mandate to set up a new government should be given to a younger person. Both candidates agreed that a dialogue will be necessary after the elections between all political forces on essential issues in the lives of the Slovene people and that this will be achieved by the adoption of a new Slovene constitution at a referendum. In Kucan's view, the Presidency of Slovenia could have a greater moral role under the new conditions than it now has according to the Constitution.

Kucan on Elections, Relations With Army

AU2104171290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Apr 90 p 5

[Roksanda Nincic report on interview by Milan Kucan, candidate for the Slovene presidency at Slovenj Gradec on 17 April: "Agreement, But Secession Is Also Possible"]

[Excerpts] According to all assessments, Milan Kucan will probably be elected president of the Presidency of Slovenia. The dilemma in Ljubljana mainly concerns whether he will defeat Joze Pucnik, his opponent, with a greater or smaller margin of votes. He gave an interview to BORBA on Tuesday evening in Slovenj Gradec, after he had spent an hour and a half on the radio answering the listeners' questions that had set alight the telephone lines provided for their calls. Therefore, the first thing we asked him was—what was the most difficult question to answer?

[Kucan] There were no difficult questions, but there was one typical one. That is to say, the Slovene independent newspaper, DEMOKRACIJA, carried a long article today saying that the Slovene government had reached agreement with Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense, concerning his visit to Slovenia last week—that is, on the eve of the elections, and that this visit had been arranged in order to ensure my victory at the elections.

I replied—and this was not difficult but easy—that I consider this type of writing in the same vain as the interview that the academician Dedijer recently gave to Titograd POBJEDA, in which he said that I had betrayed the interests of the Slovene people by entering into a pact with the Ljubljana archbishop Dr. Sustar. If this is what democracy should be, then we obviously do not have very bright prospects for the future.

[Nincic] Since we are already talking about the Army, does the concept of a confederation that you are advocating include the demand for one's own army?

[Kucan] All sovereign people have the right to have a stand on their own defense. Whether this has to be a special national army or not is a question of specific relations. The Yugoslav People's Army arose as a people's and a democratic army. In a federal community, as Yugoslavia was, all people had the right—and I would also say duty—to also worry about the Yugoslav People's Army as a joint armed force, which of course assumed financial provision for this interest.

The crisis and recent development of relations have shown that much of this needs to be changed both in the concept of defense and in the concept of the Army itself. This primarily concerns the separation of the party and state and the creation and functioning of a law-governed state, which also implies removing party interests from the Army. I think that the new definition of mutual relations in the Yugoslavia will have to offer a response to this question too. However, regardless of how this will be resolved, it is clear that the opportunity must be created for recruits to serve the Army in their home region—in their own republic—as well as for the full equality of all languages to be established. If this is not possible, then the option is of course very simple and prospects are reduced to only one possibility—and that is a national army.

[Nincic] Until it is established whether what you have been speaking about is possible or not, how do you see the future for the very cold relations between Slovenia and the Yugoslav People's Army which have been like this for quite a long time now?

[Kucan] Formal constitutional relations exist which must be respected by everyone who has formal responsibilities and duties in our society. This relates to both the Presidency of the republic and the Presidency of the federation, as well as to the organs of the national army. Regardless of how much someone sympathizes with someone else and how much someone likes someone else, these contacts must exist. The question of whether they are creative, productive, or only contribute to intensifying conflicts depends on specific people.

As far as I am concerned, my stands have always been clear in this respect. The assessment of political circumstances is a matter of politics and the assessment of defense circumstances, tasks, and the conditions which allow defense tasks to be carried out are a matter for the expert organs of the general staff, the Secretariat for National Defense, the Presidency of the federation, and I think, to an increasing extent, the Federal Assembly. [passage omitted]

[The following passage appears boxed within the body of the item]

What Is, and What Is Not Yugoslavia

[Nincic] Do you think that there are any possibilities for talks with the Army on recruits doing military service in their own republic and on establishing the equality of all languages, or are such talks already under way perhaps?

[Kucan] There has been a string of initiatives in this respect by almost all organs of Slovenia, particularly by the Presidency of the Republic. While I was a member of this organ, I took part in several of these talks but, of course, a high level of consensus was not reached and attitudes about the actual concept of all-people's defense were sometimes quite divergent. This is not only to do with the present generation of Slovene politicians, this was the case earlier too. These matters have some quite deep roots in wartime, in the time when the Slovene partisan army was liquidated and the present concept of all-people's defense was formulated, as well as in later times, when specific issues and problems arose which were connected above all with assessments of the political situation in Slovenia and therefore in Yugoslavia.

[Nincic] Have you been able to see any improvement recently in this respect?

[Kucan] I am not now directly involved in the talks so I could not give a worthy reply. As far as I have any insight into these relations, I do not see that there has been any essential improvement.

[Nincic] Are you afraid of the possibility of military intervention in Slovenia?

[Kucan] I am not afraid of military intervention, I do not know who could intervene. However, intensification and even conflict could of course arise if there is no readiness or desire for democratic agreement concerning future relations in Yugoslavia and relations between republics and nations—proceeding from the present constitutional bases which require such talks—and if, therefore, the balance of political forces in Slovenia itself, Yugoslavia and even Europe, and the world is not considered. It is a great question how this conflict could be resolved. If Lithuania could serve as an example in any respect, I think that it is the responsibility of all of us in Yugoslavia, and us in Slovenia too, to ensure that we are not put into Lithuania's position, that is to say, to ensure that no one in Yugoslavia is put into Lithuania's position. Democratic agreement is the way to find solutions; the policy of the fait accompli cannot be democratic and productive in the long term.

[Nincic] Do you think that the experiences of Lithuania and Slovenia are in anyway comparable?

[Kucan] All analogies of this type are pretty risky because the historical circumstances are essentially different. In exercising its right to self-determination, Lithuania invokes an irregular legal provision, on the basis of which it is a part of the Soviet Union. It is not a constituent part of the USSR, it entered this structure later, on the basis of an agreement that it now challenges. I think that the problem of Lithuania is also heightened because of the fact that this could be the beginning of the process of the disintegration of the USSR. However, I think that even without Lithuania, the USSR would still be the USSR, while this is not the case with Yugoslavia and Slovenia. Slovenia is above all a constituent part of Yugoslavia, it is in Yugoslavia of its own free will and in the expectation that in such an equal and democratic community all its interests will be protected in the best possible way and the development of all its potential will be ensured. Its secession would mean that Yugoslavia would no longer exist. Yugoslavia without Slovenia is no longer Yugoslavia. Therefore, it seems to me that what is so important is the way in which the natural and inalienable right of every people to self- determination would be exercised. This is a right which is also guaranteed by the Slovene Constitution.

Second Round of Elections Begins in Slovenia

Polls Open

LD2204081990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0612 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—At 0700 this morning the doors of polling stations opened throughout Slovenia. In the second round of votes, residents of this republic will be electing the president of the Slovene presidency from among the candidates of the Slovene League of Communist-Party for Democratic Reforms led by Milan Kucan and the candidates of the united opposition, Demos, led by Joze Pucnik.

Voters will also elect in the second round of votes the deputies of the chamber of municipalities of the Slovene Assembly where this had not been done in the first round.

In today's last round of this year's elections, voters will also decide the future composition of the chambers of local communities and socio-political chambers in municipal assemblies.

The polling stations will close at 1900 and the results of the elections for president of Slovenia will be known only late in the evening, according to the republic electoral commission.

'Satisfactory' Turnout

LD2204193290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1723 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 22 (TANJUG)—Around 364,000 people, or 24 percent of the total number of voters, turned out at the second round of elections in the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia by 10 a.m. today.

This is a satisfactory turn-out, somewhat higher than at the same time 14 days ago, when the first round was held. The highest turnout was recorded in Seza, almost 50 percent, and the lowest in Jesenice—only 12.4 percent.

President of the Republican Electoral Commission Emil Tomc said that the elections were held in a quiet atmosphere and that the unofficial results should [passage indistinct].

Slovenes today choose the president of the Republic between two candidates—Milan Kucan, candidate for the League of Communists of Slovenia Democratic Reform Party, and Joze Pucnik, candidate for the Democratic United Opposition Demos.

Kucan Leads

LD2204214890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2030 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 22 (TANJUG)—According to incomplete reports, after 160,000 ballots were counted from today's elections for the president of the Presidency of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, the candidate of the League of Communists of Slovenia—the Party of Democratic Reform, Milan Kucan, is in the lead over Joze Pucnik, the candidate of the united opposition Demos. Kucan had 55.57 percent of the vote and Pucnik 44.43 percent.

Only one hour earlier, when 63,000 ballots were counted, Kucan had 50.51 percent of the vote and Pucnik 49.49 percent.

'Unofficial Figures' Show Kucan Elected

LD2204230690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2248 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—Milan Kucan, a candidate of the Slovene League of Communists [LC]-Party of Democratic Renewal and of the Slovene Socialist Alliance, has been elected president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia.

According to the latest, incomplete, and unofficial figures given by the republic's electoral commission in today's second round of voting Kucan received 58.28 percent of votes, while his rival Joze Pucnik of the DEMOS gained 41.72 percent.

Ther new Slovene president was born in 1941. He has a law degree from Ljubljana University. Among other positions Kucan was president of the Slovene youth organization. Secretary of the Slovene Socialist Alliance of Working People Republican Conference, president of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and member of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Central Committee Presidium. Until the 11th congress of the Slovene LC Kucan occupied the post of president of the Slovene LC Central Committee Presidium.

'New President' Kucan Outlines Views, Policies

Wants New Constitution

AU2304083090 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Milan Kucan is the new president of the Presidency of Slovenia. In the second round of elections, he received about 58.4 percent of the votes and Joze Pucnik received about 41.7 percent.

Speaking at a news conference, Kucan said that he will meet the expectations of those who voted for him. He is of the opinion that one should strengthen social and other kinds of security of Slovenia's citizens and the political and economic independence of the republic, as well as adopt a new constitution in a democratic way. Upon those foundations, one should build the progress of Slovene society and democratic and peaceful relations with other peoples in Yugoslavia and Europe.

Addresses Future of Slovenia

LD2304000990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2312 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—At this evening's press conference, the new president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia, Milan Kucan, expressed his optimism over Slovenia's future development and the continuation of what has been achieved so far.

These elections have endorsed our decision that Slovenia will enter into arrangements with others in Yugoslavia as a sovereign and free republic, he stressed.

The Slovene nation will decide on its future, including its right to self-determination and secession. Kucan expressed a firm belief that decisions regulating these issues would be made by the parliament of the Republic of Slovenia.

Pucnik Concedes Defeat in Slovene Elections

LD2304003190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2323 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 22 Apr (TANJUG)—At a press conference this evening, Joze Pucnik admitted defeat and congratulated his political opponent Milan Kucan on the latter's victory in the elections for president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia. At the same time, he warned the new president to take into consideration the overall situation in Slovenia and "to leave behind as soon as possible the images of the past" and to concentrate on the future.

Asked about the possibility of setting up a national coalition government, Pucnik said that the victorious party, Demos, should be allowed to form the new government but that at the same time, the opposition should be in the position to control the government so as to avoid repeating the situation that had prevailed so far. Dr. Pucnik did not deny the need for a referendum in deciding on some issues of cricual importance for Slovenia.

Comments on Kucan Victory

LD2304000490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2333 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 22 (TANJUG)—The voters decided the elections and they are always right, United Democratic Opposition (Demos) Leader Joze Pucnik told Ljubljana Television, commenting the victory of his rival Milan Kucan at today's second round of elections for the president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia.

According to Pucnik, the United Democratic Opposition of Slovenia (Demos) will remain firmly united after the elections and he will continue to be its leader until the basic demands of his programme—the affirmation of a democratic system, the sovereignty of Slovenia and a change in its position in Yugoslavia—are realized.

Pucnik categorically said he would not make up the new Slovenian Government and that the mandator would most probably be a member of the strongest faction in Demos—the Christian Democratic Party.

Kosovo 'Youth Parliament' Leaders Released

LD1904213890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2058 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pristina, 19 Apr (TANJUG)—Following the decision reached by the Supreme Court of Kosovo by a majority of votes, eight leaders and activists of the "Youth Parliament", an alternative Albanian organization, were released from detention and acquitted of further investigation. They were detained in late March on the basis of the well-founded suspicion that they had taken part in a mysterious poisoning of students of Albanian nationality in Podujevo and other towns in the province and publicly spread untruths, thus impairing intranational relations.

Following the arrest of the president of the Youth Parliament, Haljilj Matosi, and Bljerim Salja, one of the most active leaders of that organization, and the latter's brother Ljulzim, representatives of the Albanian alternative organizations in Kosovo have set up a committee for their release.

Party Welcomes Lifting of State of Emergency

AU2004192790 Pristina Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Summary From Poor Reception] A regular news conference was held today in Pristina by the Kosovo alternative groups. The Kosovo Democratic Alliance, according to its spokesman, Dr. Femi Agani, "supports the decision of the SFRY Presidency to lift the emergency measures in Kosovo, adding that this decision will contribute to the improvement of the situation in Kosovo and throughout the country." He went on to say: "We hope that as a result of the democratic processes that have been initiated, the Kosovo problems will be resolved in a peaceful and democratic manner." Femi Agani added that "the period of the state of emergency in Kosovo, which lasted over one year, was tragic and had a negative effect on political and social life," and was the cause for the deaths of nearly 60 people, the wounding of over a hundred people, maltreatment, isolation, dismissals from work, in addition to the further exacerbation of interethnic relations.

Journalists were also informed about the communique issued by the council for the defense of eight leaders of the Youth Parliament, in which "satisfaction was expressed in connection their release from prison."

The Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms presented a communique on the dismissal of Albanian nationality members of the State and Public Security. The communique states that numerous Albanian members of the security forces have asked the Council for Assistance in defending their rights.

Changes in Montenegrin Trade Union Organization

LD2004195190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1101 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Titograd, 20 Apr (TANJUG)—In the future, the Montenegrin Trade Union Federation will be known as the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the republic.

The decision on the change in the present name of this organization was made at today's session by the members of the Montenegrin Trade Union Federation Council.

A decision also was adopted today on the formation of 18 independent trade unions in the industrial sectors and professions of Montenegro. Within each independent trade union, republican committees of independent trade unions and sector trade union committees will be formed.

The Montenegrin Trade Union Council also decided that this organization should leave the republican Socialist Alliance of Working People.

Combat Readiness Improved in Macedonia

LD1904185790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1605 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Skopje, 19 Apr (TANJUG)—The National Defense Council of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia presidency at today's session in Skopje, chaired by Council President Jezdimir Bogdanski, judged that the complex sociopolitical and economic situation in the country and the ever more intensive activity by Albanian nationalists and separatists has had a negative influence on the morale of territorial defense members.

It was noted that in the last year, besides some difficulties, the Republican Headquarters for Territorial Defense carried out all its basic tasks in improving combat readiness, developing the command system and organizing and implementing according to plan training in the territorial defense structures.

Considering the report of the Republican Headquarters for Territorial Defense of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, the National Defense Council of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia Presidency stressed that through maximum efforts by all subjects, the ideopolitical unity and moral strength of the territorial defense units was preserved.

The Council pointed to the increasingly more marked difficulties in financing all-people's defense and stressed the need for regulations about securing funds for the development of all-people's defence to be observed consistently, the statement from the session notes.

JNA, Macedonian LC Agree on Crisis Assessment

LD1904173190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1337 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Skopje, 19 Apr (TANJUG)—Representatives of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] Committee in the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] and the Macedonian League of Communists [LC] Central Committee Presidium agree on the assessment of the current situation in the LCY. They expressed mutual readiness to find generally acceptable solutions for overcoming the crisis in the party.

It was stated today that representatives of the LCY Committee in the JNA and the Macedonian LC Central Committee Presidium held a working meeting in Skopje today. It was said at the meeting that these two LC organizations agree that finding solutions acceptable to everyone would mark a new phase in the LCY development based on a new program and statutary foundations. Both organizations hold that the LCY should act on the basis of democratic and equal relations between its parts and at the same time should develop a new organization platform.

Bosnian Communists Return Membership Cards

AU2304170590 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 14 Apr 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Membership Abandoned by 3,500 Members"]

[Excerpt] So far, 3,500 Communists have left the League of Communists of Bosnia-Hercegovina—so say figures published by the Central Committee of this republic's League of Communists. Almost one percent of a total membership of 390,000 have returned their party cards in the last few months. The number of those who are leaving the League of Communists is certainly not final because figures have been arriving daily from communal committees and basic organizations concerning the situation "on the ground." According to many assessments, this number is increasing virtually by the day and the reason is the difficult political situation which every day irritates an already inert and impotent membership. [passage omitted]

Bosnia-Hercegovina Political Youth Party Formed

LD2104124790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0953 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, 21 Apr (TANJUG)—The Socialist Youth Federation of Bosnia-Hercegovina, by a decision of its 12th congress which ended early this morning, has transformed itself into a political party—the Socialist Youth Federation-Democratic Federation of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and an association of youth organizations which combines all former social organizations. [passage omitted]

After long, exhausting, and very heated discussions, the congress adopted the documents according to which the political party was named the Democratic Federation, not the Social Democratic Party as had been planned. [passage omitted]